



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 84

Friday, July 13, 2012

50¢ Plus tax

Information sought about missing girl
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Board approves new sex ed program

Students may 'opt out'

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A new program at the Okeechobee Ninth Grade Center will include information on sexuality, contraception and teenage pregnancy.

At their Tuesday meeting, the Okeechobee

County School Board approved a memorandum of understanding with the Okeechobee County Health Department to provide the Teen Outreach Program for ninth grade students. Twenty-five subjects will be discussed with the most controversial being sexuality, contraception, and teenage pregnancy. Students can opt out of the program. The curriculum is expected to lower the number of school suspensions,

and lower dropouts and teenage pregnancy rates. In the past abstinence only was taught in school. Abstinence will still be a major portion of the curriculum.

Superintendent Ken Kenworthy said the "abstinence only" policy hasn't been as effective as the schools had hoped in addressing these social issues.

See SCHOOL — Page 2



Okeechobee News

Staying cool

As temperatures rise, Okeechobee County residents have been taking advantage of the chance to cool off in the public pool at the Okeechobee Sports Complex. For more on area pools and water attractions see "Going Out: A guide to area entertainment and attractions," in this edition.

Search turns up 83 suspected pot plants

Deputies also find guns and police gear

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Guns, ammunition, pot and police equipment were allegedly seized by local law enforcement when a search warrant was served on a S.E. 94th Trail home.



Michael Corsetti

Members of the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on Wednesday, July 11, arrested Michael Corsetti Jr. and Richard Marvin Chapman on felony drug and weapons charges.

Corsetti, 54, was arrested on felony charges of possession of a firearm



Richard Chapman

See MARIJUANA — Page 2

Steve Hoskins

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MARIJUANA

Continued from Page 1

by a convicted felon, grand theft of law enforcement equipment from an emergency vehicle, cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana over 20 grams. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Records indicate he is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail in lieu of \$46,000 bond.

Chapman, 56, was arrested on felony charges of cultivation of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of marijuana over 20 grams. He was also charged with the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Chapman's bond has been set at \$18,500.

An arrest report stated that the home is owned by Corsetti.

Task force detectives, along with deputies from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Street Crimes Unit and OCSO Special Response Team, served the warrant on Corsetti's around 7:15 a.m. When SRT members first entered the home they found Corsetti in a bed in the living room and Chapman on a couch in the same room, stated the report.

During a search of the home detectives reportedly found 83 suspected marijuana plants with active root systems being grown in a bathroom. Also found was a .25 caliber semi-automatic handgun in a back bedroom and a box of .25 caliber ammunition in the kitchen.

Of particular interest were two bullet proof vests, a SWAT-style ballistic helmet and a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) deputy's badge reportedly found in

the back bedroom.

According to the arrest report those items were stolen from a PBSO vehicle last year. One of the vests, continued the report, clearly had the word POLICE stenciled on it.

More information on exactly when and how those items were taken was not readily available.

Of the suspected pot, a task force detective said the plants were only about a month old.

"It wasn't good stuff. It was only average," said the detective of the alleged pot's quality.

Because of that, the investigator estimated the street value of the suspected pot to be around \$500 a pound.

A background check revealed that Corsetti was released from the Hardee Correctional Institute March 24, 2010, after serving about 11 months. He was convicted in 2009 of the felony willful fleeing to elude a law enforce-

ment officer.

Department of Corrections (DOC) records show that Corsetti has three times served stints in prison for burglary. He has also served time on convictions of robbery, grand theft, escape and battery on a law enforcement officer.

Corsetti was first sent to prison in 1980 after being convicted of burglary in Broward County.

While not as extensive Chapman has also spent time in prison, with his first stint coming in 1977 when he was convicted of burglary in Broward County.

DOC records show that in 2004 Chapman was found guilty of highspeed fleeing from a law enforcement officer, driving while license suspended - habitual offender and willful fleeing to elude a law enforcement officer in Okeechobee County. He served a little over a year on those charges.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

School board member Joe Arnold said school boards have to take on more and more responsibility. He said it was a sad state of affair that the board had to take this step.

Board chairperson Kelly Owens said the social contract between the schools and community has changed. She said the school should provide the best program it can to give the community what is necessary to help students.

"I like the fact that there is the opt-out. With my own children, these were conversations I wanted to have with them, and not somebody else," she added.

School board member India Riedel said this is part of the board's responsibility and she supported the program. "I hope this does reduce our teen pregnancy rate."

In other business at the Tuesday meeting, Waste Management was honored with the Commissioner of Education Recognition Award for outstanding support to the Okeechobee School System.

Waste Management helps the school system through their support of education, school recycling programs, and other programs. Jeff Sabin of Waste Management received the honor from Commissioner Ge-

rard Robinson in June at the Commissioner's Awards ceremony in Tampa.

The board received the distinction of Master Board awarded by the Florida School Boards Association. Okeechobee is one of 32 school districts in Florida to receive this honor. Each board member went through 22 hours of training and was honored in June. The training is designed to enhance the board's ability to provide visionary leadership, enhance student achievement, foster connections and empower collaboration between schools and the community.

In other actions the board expelled one seventh grade student from Okeechobee Achievement Academy for the first semester of the 2012-13 school year for possession of counterfeit drugs and drug paraphernalia at school.

The board amended their student control policy to add new synthetic drugs, like spice, to the list of drugs prohibited at schools.

In other business, the board approved the same start and dismissal times for students for the 2012-2013 school year.

Indian River State College Provost Russ Brown reported that over 400 OHS students have enrolled for dual enrollment classes. He said summer class size also increased to 40 students per class. There were 18 graduates of IRSC from Okeechobee who were part of the President's Take Stock in Children program this year.

Twenty-seven positions with the salaries of over \$850,000 were eliminated from the

school system. There were no layoffs as the positions were left voluntarily through resignation and retirement. The cuts included 10 teaching positions. About 30 new teachers will join the system in August. The district will save over \$1 million when benefits are added to the total cost.

Any parent who wishes to look at their

child's school improvement plan is invited to visit this website, http://www.flbsi.org/1011_SIP/login.aspx.

School grades are expected to be released in the next few days. The school board will discuss the proposed 2012-2013 budget on July 24 at 6 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Four members of the Okeechobee School Board received Master Board Training this year. Left to right are Okeechobee School Superintendent Ken Kenworthy, Chairperson Kelly Owens, David Williams, India Riedel and Joe Arnold.

Okeechobee Forecast



The forecast for Okeechobee County from the National Weather Service calls for:

Friday: Partly cloudy. Scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated evening showers and thunder-

storms. Lows in the mid 70s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Saturday: Partly sunny. Scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated evening showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Sunday: Partly sunny with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. Chance of rain 30 percent.

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Okeechobee school district grades released

Local schools make Bs and Cs

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee schools went along with a state wide trend of lower school grades this year as the district saw all but one school drop one letter grade.

The Florida Department of Education reported 89 percent of schools had passing grades this year. Okeechobee had no failing schools. The Freshman Campus, Osceola Middle, Everglades Elementary and North Elementary earned C grades and Central Elementary, South Elementary, Yearling Middle School and Seminole Elementary were B schools. Osceola was the only school that did not drop a letter grade this year.

"Given the fact we had new cut scores

and new tests, and more students took the test on computer, we are happy with these grades," said Assistant Superintendent Mary Hurley.

Ms. Hurley said there is room for improvement and they will alter instructional practices where needed to make learning gains.

"We are not completely satisfied. Our teachers can do better and allow the students to do better," she added.

The Brighton Charter School Pemaayev Emahakv earned a C grade, identical to 2011.

Florida Commissioner of Education Gerard Robinson said the 2011-12 school year was a time of tremendous changes for students, teachers and schools, "Florida's economic future depends on preparing our students for success. The high standards we

have in place today will help our students prepare for college, the workforce and life. I am confident that we are on the right path to prepare our students to compete with the best in the nation and around the world."

The FCAT tests this year were definitely tougher and were criticized by educators, parents, and politicians. The FLDOE did raise expectations five times in the past ten years. The results show that after an initial drop, school grades have improved consistently in the years that followed. The state moves to common core state standards in 2014-2015 and the tougher standards should smooth the transition for students.

The state said 43 percent of schools earned an A, 26 percent earned a B, and 20-percent earned a C. Eleven percent of schools had failing grades.

Hurley said Okeechobee schools fared

well when compared with schools in small, rural districts.

While fewer students were deemed proficient in reading, math and science, some schools fared well in writing, reading, and math, just not all three.

Ms. Hurley said a positive trend is an improvement among the lower performing students.

"We are doing well in that area and I feel we are doing a good job with remediation. Now we have to challenge these students and get them proficient," she added.

She said principals know they have work to do and they will work in every area of the curriculum to improve student performance.

Council leaders learn about Okeechobee Livestock Market

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

People from the coastal cities recently learned about one of the things that makes small town Okeechobee unique. Todd Clemmons, whose family owns the Okeechobee Livestock Market, was the guest speaker at the Wednesday, July 11, meeting of the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments held at Okeechobee's First United Methodist Church.

The council is made up of representatives from Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties, the cities of Fellsmere, Ft. Pierce, Okeechobee, Port St. Lucie, Sebastian, Stuart, Vero Beach, the towns of Jupiter Island, Indian River Shores, Sewall's Point, St. Lucie Village and the school boards of Indian River, Martin and St. Lucie counties.

"I was born on a horse," Mr. Clemmons said. While he admitted that was an exaggeration he said that his first memories were of working cows on horseback with his father, Pete, and his grandfather, Oscar.

As a child Mr. Clemmons travelled to rodeos all over the country where his father competed.

"It's a landmark," he said of the Okeechobee Livestock Market. "I don't know how it is to live in a town without a market."

He said the market was built in the 1930s when U.S. 98 was a dirt road. He said that originally ranching families gathered their cattle in the area of what is now Dixie Ranch before driving them to market.

Mr. Clemmons said the original part of the building is still standing. He said his father and grandfather along with Quillie Hazellief bought the market in 1961. His dad knew everyone from competing in rodeos and was instrumental in getting them to sell their livestock at his market.

At that time the largest livestock market in the area was at Belle Glade. For a time his family leased the Belle Glade market, During that time Mr. Clemmons said he had to go to Belle Glade every Monday for sales. Sales at the Okeechobee market were held on Tuesdays.

With the decline of cattle raising and the increase in raising of sugar cane in the Belle Glade area, that market dwindled while the Okeechobee market got larger.

Some time in the late 1960s or early 1970s, the Belle Glade market closed and the Okeechobee market had sales every Monday and Tuesday.

"Back in those days, there were cattle everywhere," said Mr. Clemmons.

The year 1988 was a record year for the market. They sold 157,000 cows and grossed \$52 million. Most of those cattle came from around the lake.

In the year 2000, the market sold 153,000 cows and grossed \$56 million.

By 2011 sales had dropped to 106,000. However the market's gross had increased to \$60 million.

"We're doing a better job of raising cattle," Mr. Clemmons said. He said the demand is up and the supply is down. There are now new markets in Asian countries. Mr. Clemmons said that most of the sales money stays in Okeechobee, which is home to some of the largest ranches, such as the Adams, Deseret and Rollins ranches.

"The cattle industry is vital to our economy," Mr. Clemmons said. "There aren't many places where you can grow grass year round like here."

It takes 3 or 4 acres to carry a cow for a year. This cow will produce one calf that sells for \$600 to \$700.

He said ranching families love their cows, and love their land and are good stewards of it. He said conservation easements are a

way to keep the land in the family as well as preserve it.

Gary Ritter, director of South Florida Water Management's Okeechobee Service Center, said the type of ranching the Clemmons do has the least impact on the watershed other than native pastures. Mr. Ritter said that housing units have a much higher impact on the watershed.

"We need you and you need us," Mr. Clemmons told the local legislators.

"Remember us here in Okeechobee," he said. "We are growing food. We feed America." He reminded the group that most ranchers also grow citrus trees.

He asked the local legislators to support laws that would allow ranchers to work their lands without putting restrictions on them.

Turning to other matters, Martin County Commissioner Edward Ciampi said he thought the Medicaid issue was one of the worst things to come out of Tallahassee. He said that 57 counties have now joined the lawsuit against the law. The worst part, he thinks, is that the state deducts the money they say you owe from the money they owe you. "Once they have the money, good luck getting it back."

Representatives of state and local elected officials who were present were recognized.

"Congressman (Tom) Rooney has a vested interest in veterans' issues," stated Sherry

McCorkle, who is the congressman's field representative.

Michelle McGovern of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's office said the senator has been instrumental in getting federal funds for Everglades restoration north of the lake.

Greg Langowski, representing U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, said the senator's office is active helping people who are the victims of identify theft. Carrie Lira, from State Senator Joe Negron's office, said he is concerned with medical insurance issues.

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Okeechobee County Republican Party

Republican party of Okeechobee invites you to participate in the upcoming 2012 election events:

July 16 - Political Forum at OMS 6pm. July 16 is the last day to register to vote or switch parties for the primary election. With 14 local Republicans as well as State and Federal Candidates in primary races, you can't afford to not vote for your favorite candidate. To vote for your candidates of choice, you must be registered in the correct party. Register with the Republican Party today.

July 20 - 6pm Lincoln Day Dinner at IRSC Williamson Center. Your local Candidates as well as State and Federal Candidates will be in attendance, and our Candidates will be speaking. Tickets are limited and available by calling 863-532-9623.

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Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

OUA

• Talk about 'fat cats.' The citizens of Okeechobee are being bullied by the iron hand ruling of the OUA that they must raise rates in order to continue operations and I wonder why? All the OUA does is deliver inferior quality water to its customers for every other week we are informed after the fact that there is a problem and you are advised to boil water before it is used. What in the world are we paying for, inferior quality water to help shorten our life span? All I know is that OUA takes pleasure in raising rates and if you are short 20 cents one month, you are told you are in arrears and threatened with disconnection. OUA, what you need is quality competition.

• All of the financial woes of the OUA go back to the days when the City of Okeechobee ran the water system and made such a mess of it, sinking it deeply in debt when they lost a lawsuit over a sewer line work. When the city dumped the old water system on the new utility authority, the city got rid of all the debt and headaches and the customers got left dealing with the problems. The people who are on wells do not want the city water system to expand to their areas.

Gator attack

• In regard to the boy who was attacked by an alligator in the Caloosahatchee River near Moore Haven, it might seem crazy for anyone to swim in that river, but what else do the kids in Moore Haven have? They don't have a public swimming pool anywhere in Glades County. It is a shame that he lost his arm, but he has a good attitude and is happy to still be alive. So God bless him and I wish him the best.

• I know it is hot out, but locals should know better. At least he is alive, but this is just so sad and terrible.

• Don't swim with alligators and for sure don't try feeding them.

• These are very good boys. What else is there to do but go swimming? All of us raised in the Okeechobee area swam in ponds and rivers. These boys have been raised around gators and know what to expect out of them. That's probably what saved Kaleb's life. Gators are all over Florida in every body of water. You can't be worried every time you want to jump into a river or a pond that you're going to be attacked. This gator was a major exception, very aggressive, according to the people that live on the river. There had been calls made to the game commission about that gator in the past. That morning at 8 there was a call made about the gator being aggressive. But nobody was sent soon enough. By the time the calls got through, the report came in about the accident. If the county and game commission knew about this, especially that morning being reported, why were they not observing the situation and making sure that nobody went into the river until the gator was gone? Moore Haven has this location set up to use for fun. They have picnic tables, barbecue grills and actual docks that the boys jump off of. That gator complaint should have been taken more serious. Unless you were raised in the city, you can't say that you have never swam in Florida waters.



• If you are born and raised here, you know if you take the chance of swimming in ANY body of water this is a possibility, just saying... I'm glad he is alive to tell his story and hopefully it will make other people think twice. Prayers for a quick recovery!

• He's doing great. Great attitude. The reporter asked him how he felt and he told the reporter that he felt like his arm has been bitten off...lol. He's a great kid.

• I can't imagine anyone wanting to swim in that river. Less than a month ago there were all kinds of health warnings telling people to stay out of the water and keep their animals out of the Caloosahatchee River due to concerns about toxic algae. It is not clean water and certainly no place to swim. Bad enough if you are in a boat and fall into the water, but to jump in and swim in it on purpose is a little crazy, even if there are no alligators around.

Letters to the editor

Watch out for alligators at the STA

The reserve across from the Boys School on 441 North is a nice place to walk and see wild life. It's a nice place to walk and be chased by wild life as well.

Last Saturday afternoon, about 4 p.m., my friend Jeana and I were walking and talking as we always do. When all of a sudden, we looked up and saw two alligators about 6 to 8 feet long lying on the side of the path. One appeared to be sleeping and the other one was lying with his mouth open. And out there is **no place to run to**. It is three miles around the ponds. Sure there are 3 or 4 Chickee Huts and small picnic tables along the route but they are about a mile apart from each other and the one closer to us was about half mile away from us. On the other side of the alligators. At first, we thought maybe they wouldn't notice us. If we walked quietly to the far side of the road away from them. I've lived in Florida all my life, but my friend hasn't and even though I was scared, she was petrified. Just as we got past them, the one with his mouth open, raised up on his legs and started chasing us. I had just had knee replacement surgery not long ago and didn't know if I could even run anymore. But, I sure found out. **I can run** and we might have run a half mile before we looked back and he had stopped chasing us and was just lying in the middle of the road. He must have thought we were streaks of lightning and decided to leave us alone.

At that moment all I could think of was, being chased by dinosaurs in that movie. Needless to say, we haven't been back to the reserve since that happened.

When we got up to the gate, there were some people with their dogs on leashes. I tried to tell them please don't bring your dogs on your walk. Gators love dogs and can smell them up to a mile away. Please, there are signs up. Their dogs are prohibited. What is it going to take to make a believer out of them—for an alligator to chase them down and eat their dog? Then, eat them too?

One lady, picked up her little dog and put him back in the car and left. But the man and two other girls took their bulldog on their walk.

We saw some teenagers throwing rocks at gators that same day. All I can say is they are asking for trouble.

There are some big gators out there! All I can say is please be careful and keep your eyes open and if you see a gator, I hope you know how to run away.

One man told us to stand still and they won't bother us. Yeah, right. I'm not standing still and giving him an easy meal. If he's hungry, I'm not going to be his food if I can help it!!

Take care and walk safe.

Nancy Sullivan and Jeana Bryant

Airboaters and Okee-Tantie use

"Those that were addressed, were all in favor of the project. No one who spoke was against the development of the park." Because we didn't speak against the project did not mean that all "local airboaters" were all for the development of the park.

We went in to voice our concerns for airboating accessibility once the park is developed. We were there neither to speak for nor against the project but primarily to voice the importance of maintaining an egress and ingress for dry-launch and load airboat parking.

"It is important that we keep the language in the details."

Okee-Tantie is the only dry-launch area in Okeechobee that is accessible 24/7. Though we never spoke against the project, it doesn't mean the other 300 local airboaters that had to work that day are all in favor of the project.

We never said we're all in favor or against it, but we're definitely concerned.

Jeff Brockway
President, Lake Okeechobee
Airboat Association

Local Blood Drives planned

Come and give the gift of life to someone in your own hometown. The Big Red Bus will be at the following locations during the month of July.

Friday, July 13 – Walgreen's, 2-6 p.m.

Sunday, July 15 – Golden Corral, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Thursday, July 19 – SFWMD, Hwy 70 Sta., Noon–5 p.m.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
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- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.

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2012 OHS Scholarship Night awards



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

VFW Mens/Ladies Auxiliaries Scholarship

VFW Mens/Ladies Auxiliaries Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are Celina Norman, Encarnacion Vega and Michelle Dorta.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Seminole Tribe of Florida Scholarship

Seminole Tribe of Florida Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are Encarnacion Vega, Jerice McDonald and Andrew Bowers.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Bobbi Poole Photography Scholarship

Bobbi Poole Photography Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. Left to right are Makenzie Tomlinson and Bobbi Poole.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Buckhead Ridge Scholarship

Buckhead Ridge Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. Left to right are Katherine Peterman and Rogel Brown



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

El Centro Santa Fe Scholarship

El Centro Santa Fe Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. Front row (left to right) Cecilia Scott, Anais Ponce, Brenda Aguirre, Wendoly Castaneda, Sister Elinor Sevigny and Hector Torres; back row (left to right) Hernan Santibanez, Encarnacion Vega and Oscar Ruiz.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Luviano Construction Company Scholarship

Luviano Construction Company Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. Front row: (left to right) Florida Algarin, Yoyi Ponce De Leon, Oscar Ruiz and Oisel Luviano; back (left to right) Timothy Farrell and Keller Orender.

Community Events

Deadline for summer games is extended

Okeechobee County Parks & Recreation is seeking teams for the Okeechobee Summer Games. Teams compete in Olympic-style events with a fun twist. Tentative events include: relay swim, inner tube sprint, basketball shoot-out, ping pong, hubcap hurling, tug-a-war, etc. It is a two-day competition held Saturday, Aug 4, at the Sports Complex and Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Agri-Civic Center. The fee is \$100 per team. The deadline has been extended to Friday, July 20. There are two divisions: Junior (ages 14-17) and Adult (18 & up). We need a minimum of 16 combined teams. Call the Parks & Recreation Dept. at 863-763-6950 for more details.

Eagles North to host steak night

Steak Night starts at 5:30 p.m. this Friday, **July 13**, at Eagles North, 9985 U.S. 441 N. Proceeds will support the FOE 4137 Community Benefit Fund.

Cypress Hut Eagles to have steak dinner

Friday, **July 13**, Cypress Hut Eagles will host steak dinner night for just \$12 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. All proceeds go to Charity Fund. Public welcome. Music by Phil.

Golf Tournament to benefit Louise Davis

A benefit golf tournament will be held at the Okeechobee Golf & Country Club, on **July 14**, for Louise Davis. Sign up a team for \$240. With a 7 a.m. registration and 8 a.m. shotgun start, the benefit will also feature contests for closest to the pin, longest drive, Mulligans, 50/50 raffle, door prizes and lunch will be provided. Sponsors for the holes are being sought. After the golf, music will be provided by Jake Hair, with BBQ plates for lunch ready at 2 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and family and enjoy a fun day out. Contact Karen Albert at 863-634-2120. For golf, call Moe at 863-634-0577.

SKYWARN training class is being offered

The National Weather Service and Okeechobee Emergency Operations Center with support from the Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club will conduct a Weather Watching/SKYWARN Basic Training, on **Saturday, July 14**, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the EOC, 707 N.W. 6th Street. This is a free class and is open to the public. The idea of Skywarn is to train citizens to observe and report severe weather to help the National Weather Service predict the weather and to help keep others safe. The SKYWARN Spotter Training class will provide you with all the information needed to become a registered spotter for the National Weather Service. For more information, see <http://SKYWARN.mcara-web.com>. To register for the class, please contact Ron Tagg at kd4pqq@arrl.net or 772-631-5846.

Eagles to host 'hen shoot'

Eagles Aerie North, 9984 U.S. 441 N., will host a 'hen shoot' on **July 14, starting at 10 a.m.** The event is open to the public. Ladies are invited to grab their shot guns and compete for prizes. The first 15 rounds are \$2 per round donation. Men are also welcome. The event will include a bake sale. The proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 ladies auxiliary benefit fund. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Samaritan Outreach plans yard sale for July 14

Samaritan Outreach will hold a yard sale on **July 14**, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hope Ministry Center, one-fourth mile behind the Post Office. The sale will include clothing, shoes, furniture and more. For more information contact Sister Sinda Shanks at 863-484-3015 or the Samaritan Center at 863-467-1500.

Freedom Outreach fishing tournaments slated

The Freedom Outreach fishing tournaments will be held on Sunday, **July 15**, Aug. 12 and the championship on Sept. 9 (\$120). The \$80 (cash only) entry fee includes the big fish pot and championship fund. You must fish at least four tournaments to be in the championship event! All tournaments will be held at Okee-Tantie Marina Boat Ramp from safe light until 2 p.m. Food and drinks free at weigh in. Please call 561-719-5989 or 863-634-8127 to register or with questions.

Cypress Hut Eagles to host card bingo

Sunday, **July 15**, will be having card bingo starting at 3 p.m. All proceeds go to Community Charity Fund. Public is welcome.

Political forum set for July 16

A political forum will be held on **July 16** in the Osceola Middle School Gymnasium, 825 S.W. 28th Street, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. The forum will include candidates from the following races: U.S. Senator; U.S. Representative District 17; State Representative District 55; Sheriff; Property Appraiser; School Board District 2; and, County Commission Districts 1, 3 and 5. The forum will also be broadcast live on WOKC 100.9 FM and 1570 AM.

Garden and Orchid Clubs to meet July 16

On Monday, **July 16** the Garden Club will meet at 6 p.m. followed by the Orchid Club meeting at 7 p.m. Every one is invited. Bring your favorite orchid or a problem orchid to discuss. There will be an assortment of clay pots and hangers to give away. The meetings are at the Extension Center, 451 Highway 98 N. For more information call 863-763-6469.

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing obits@newszap.com. Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at www.newszap.com.

Velma O'leava Ingham, 63

OKEECHOBEE — Velma O'leava Ingham died Friday, July 6, 2012, at her residence.

She was born September 1, 1948, to Thomas J. Abney and Lavena (Jones) Abney in Garden Grove, Calif. She had been a resident of Okeechobee since 2009 coming from Las Vegas, Nev.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Ms. Ingham is survived by her daughters, Christine Shumate (Orlando) of Okeechobee, Dortha Hise (Jason) of California; son, Larry Buxton (Kade) of Oklahoma; Brother Thomas Abney of Texas and nine grandchildren.

There will be no public services.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, FL. Online condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

Violet 'Bea' Briney, 81

OKEECHOBEE — Violet "Bea" Briney, of Okeechobee passed away July 11, 2012 in Okeechobee.

She was born May 19, 1931 in Huntsville, Alabama, to Edward and Emma Mae Elders.

She came to Okeechobee from Akron, Ohio in 1958. She helped her husband, Leroy Briney, with his position as the Veteran's Services Officer and in later years she was a Postal worker. She was an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary for over 50 years. She was also a member of the First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee.

Mrs. Briney was preceded in death by her daughter, Carol Walker; and her sister, Faye Mackin.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Leroy Briney; son, Steve Briney (Kathy); son-in-law, Fred Walker all of Okeechobee; three brothers, Charles Elders (Bernice) of Tennessee, Jeffery Elders (Denise) of Okeechobee and Phillip Elders (Pam) of Sebring; brother-in-law, Walter Mackin of Okeechobee; four grandchildren, Todd Briney of Okeechobee, Nikki Cleary of Okeechobee, Ben Walker (Shannon) of Gainesville and Eric Walker of Newberry; great granddaughter, Kyle Walker of Gainesville; many loving nieces, nephews, and friends.

A gathering will be 2 p.m. Saturday, July 14, 2012 at Buxton Funeral Home, 110 NE 5th ST, Okeechobee, FL until service at 3 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.BassOkeechobeeFH.com

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 N.E. Second Street, (863) 763-2111.

Donald 'Bruce' Davenport, 51

OKEECHOBEE — Donald 'Bruce' Davenport died peacefully at home on Thursday, July 12, 2012, ending a courageous battle with cancer.

Bruce was born in Hollywood, Fla., but lived his entire life in Okeechobee. He was the owner and operator of Professional Car Care.

He is survived by his wife, Georganna Kirk - Davenport; sons, Bradly Kirk of Okeechobee, Seth A. Davenport of Louisville, Ky.; daughter, Danielle R. Davenport of Sebring, Fla.; step-daughters, Robyn (David) Griffith of Raleigh, N.C., Sara Hedges of Okeechobee; brother, Gary (Vicki) Davenport of Okeechobee; sisters, Chris (Blake) Lawrence of Okeechobee and Karen Hazelief of Ocala, Fla.

Visitation will be held Monday, July 16, 2012, from 9 a.m. until service time of 10 a.m. at Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Basinger Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Bruce's memory to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

Friends may send online condolences to www.buxtonseawinds.com

Arrangements are under the care of Matthew and Paul Buxton of BuxtonSeawinds Funeral Home, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Fla.

Catherine Opal Baggett, 86

OKEECHOBEE — Catherine Opal Baggett passed away Monday, July 9, 2012, in Hospice by the Sea.

She was born July 29, 1925, in Okeechobee, Florida to John and Nettie (Levens) Woodham. She was a housewife and a member of the Church of God of Prophecy.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Carrey Baggett.

Mrs. Baggett is survived by her son, Jerry (Cathy) Baggett of Boca Raton; grandchildren, Christy, Lindsey and David Baggett.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, July 14, 2012, at 10 a.m. until service time of 11 a.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee. Pastor Frank Woodham will be officiating and interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, Florida. Online condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

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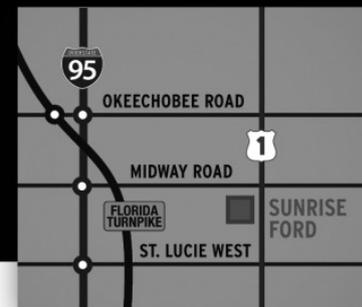


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City code enforcement recommends foreclosure

By **Pete Gawda**
Okeechobee News

At their meeting Tuesday, July 10, the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board

OCSO plans another DUI checkpoint

By **Eric Kopp**
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) will set up a DUI/driver's license checkpoint Saturday, July 21, on S.R. 70.

These check points are a proven tool and are effective in reducing the number of people killed or injured in alcohol-involved crashes, said Sheriff Paul May. He went on to say research shows that such crashes are reduced by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted enough.

Law enforcement officers will be checking drivers for signs of possible impairment. Drivers will also be checked to make sure they have the proper licensing.

Impaired drivers can expect to be arrested and jailed. Besides fines and other fees,

imposed a fine in one case and referred another case to the city council for further action.

According to testimony and photographs presented by code enforcement officer Fred

impaired drivers can also expect to have their license suspended and the cost of their insurance increased.

DUI classes and other expenses can exceed \$10,000, pointed out Sheriff Paul May.

Motorists are reminded that if they are going to drink they should designate a driver; call a cab; call a family member; or, stay home.

Florida law considers a driver with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or higher to be impaired. Drivers under the age of 21 with a BAC of .02 or higher are also in violation of state law.

Assisting the sheriff's office will be officers from the Okeechobee City Police Department and troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol.

Sterling, the property in the 1000 block of N.W. Fifth Avenue belonging to Fosler, LLC is overgrown. He said the owner had been cited several times in the past for the same offense. However, the owner had always cleaned up the property before a fine was imposed. Mr. Sterling said the owner had recently been in contact with a lawn service. Fosler was fined \$25 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning seven days after notification.

The code enforcement officer informed the board that the fine on the property of N & A Construction at 405 N.E. Fourth St. has been accruing for over 90 days. "We're not getting anywhere," Mr. Sterling said, noting

that the property owner is a repeat offender. He said the owner was hand delivered a letter stating that the fine has accrued for over 90 days. The board voted to refer the case to the city council recommending foreclosure.

Mr. Sterling said that the properties of Vicki Staton at 1003 N.W. Seventh St. and Freddie and Lisa Phipps at 814 S.E. Eighth St. had come into compliance. Therefore, those cases were not heard.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

Information sought on runaway teen

By **Eric Kopp**
Okeechobee News

Local law enforcement is asking for the public's help in finding a runaway teen who was last seen July 9.

Stevie Adelle Valentine Miller, 16, was last seen Monday night at her home on S.R. 78 W. Her direction and mode of travel unknown. Authorities also don't know if she was traveling on foot or otherwise.

Miss Miller is 5-foot-5-inches tall, weighs



Stevie Miller

120 to 125 pounds and has a slender build. She has green eyes and brownish/auburn colored hair. She also has a large knot behind her right ear due to infection from an ear piercing.

Although it's not known how she is dressed, it's possible she will be wearing black Nike sneakers with a hot pink Nike emblem, or swoosh, on the side.

The teen can also be recognized by a homemade tattoo on her lower back of blue and purple stars and squiggly lines.

If anyone has information on Miss Miller's whereabouts they are asked to contact Detective Rosemary Farless at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 863-763-3117.

Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

- Brock Lloyd Therio, 20, Grand View Blvd., Cocoa, was arrested July 10 by Deputy Ronald A. Brown on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of violation of probation - grand theft auto. He is being held without bond.

- Alisha N. Bullington, 29, N.W. 141st St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 11 by DOC's Michael W. White on felony charges of violation of probation - obtaining or attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud (three counts). She is being held without bond.

- Cheri Renee Granger, 39, Okeechobee, was arrested July 11 by Deputy Fred Bradley on a felony charge of battery on a law enforcement officer/firefighter/intake officer. Her bond was set at \$7,500.

- Shawn Ashley Van Epps, 30, Mera Drive, Fort Pierce, was arrested July 11 by Deputy Marcus Collier on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- Brittany Marie Daugherty, 23, S.W. Eighth St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 12 by Deputy Marcus Collier on a felony charge of battery on a detainee by a detainee. She is being held without bond.

This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.



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County commissioners revisit Okee-Tantie lease

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

As often happens, it is the items not on the agenda or added to the agenda at the last minute that make the Okeechobee County Commission meetings interesting. That was certainly the case at the Thursday, July 11, meeting when County Administrator Robbie Chartier added a discussion of the Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina proposal.

At the last commission meeting, developer Randal Henderson presented his plan for leasing Okee-Tantie for 99 years. He would add amenities and build RV lots. The lots would be sold. The owners could only use their lots for six months at a time. The rest of the time the developer reserved the right to rent the lots. The county would receive ad valorem taxes from the lots and a commission from their sales and rent.

Since the last commission meeting, Mrs. Chartier and County Attorney John Cassels

met with Mr. Henderson. They both said Mr. Henderson was very candid and open with changes in his proposal. Mrs. Chartier said the lender is a partner in the project and will expect a share of profits. She said that Mr. Henderson might need more time for phase 1 and that the county's rental commission was increased from 2 to 3 percent.

Mr. Cassels was impressed with Mr. Henderson's optimism. "If anybody can pull it off, Mr. Henderson probably can. He's done what he says he will do in other places."

When pressed by commissioners at the last meeting Mr. Henderson said that if his project defaulted, the improvements he had made would revert back to the county. Now it appears that that is not the case. Mr. Cassels said that the lender would use the improvements as collateral. If the developer defaulted, the improvements would revert to the lender for the duration of the lease.

Mr. Cassels said he had been drafting

documentation for the county to gain control in the event of default. He said that has now changed.

"My goal is to make this privatization work unless the board decides otherwise," the attorney said.

"If you are comfortable with losing control of one or more phases for basically a century, I am going to try to make this work. Don't base your decision on an Olympic swimming pool or club house in phase 4 for there is no guarantee of that." The county attorney said there are restrictions on what you can do with property. He told the commissioners they could not sell or lease it without state approval. "This might be all for naught if the governor and the cabinet does not give us release," he warned.

"His background is impeccable," Commissioner Bryant Culpepper said of Mr. Henderson. "You can shoot any proposal full of holes. What do we have if this doesn't

work?" he asked.

Commissioner Margaret Garrard Helton said that if the developer defaults, the lender gets prime property and the county is stuck with the property in the back of the park.

Commissioner Frank Irby suggested that the developer pay a reasonable lease for the property. Then the county would not be dependant on sales and rental income.

"It seems to me it would be more appropriate for us to do some improvements we could afford to do," said Commissioner Ray Domer. "We have done nothing to make that thing successful."

After about one and a half hour of discussion, the board voted to check to see whether or not the state would allow them to lease the property before continuing with negotiations.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

Memorial highway options proposed to honor Clif Betts

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

At their meeting on Thursday, July 11, Okeechobee County Commissioners considered honoring a former commissioner, adopted a new bidding policy and approved a five-year road paving plan.

"This is something I have been thinking about for a long time," said Commissioner Bryant Culpepper as he expressed his desire to name the section of S.R. 78 between the intersection with U.S. 441 and the Kissimmee River "The Clif Betts, Jr. Memorial Highway." He said he chose that particular section of road because of the late commissioner's enthusiasm for revitalizing Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina, which is located on that section of highway.

Commissioner Ray Domer suggested renaming Dark Hammock Road where Commissioner Betts lived. He noted that the late commissioner was friends with George Goodbread and the road intersecting with Dark Hammock had been named the George Goodbread Memorial Highway.

Commissioner Joey Hoover noted that there are Department of Transportation qualifications for naming a section of road for an individual. He thought that renaming a county road would be more appropriate since the county could control development along the road. He also mentioned Commissioner Bett's connections with the fire department and suggested naming a fire station in honor of Commissioner Betts.

At county attorney John Cassels' suggestion, the matter was tabled to allow Mr. Cassels to research the county's policy on naming county roads in honor of individuals.

In other business, thanks to action taken by the commissioners, it is now easier for a local contractor to be awarded the bid on a county contract. Commissioners adopted a new policy on awarding contracts. The county's previous bidding policy stated that if a local bidder is within 5 percent of

the lowest bid, that local bidder may be awarded the contract up to 5 per cent of the lowest bidder. Commissioners revised that policy to allow a local bidder who is within 5 percent of the lowest bid to receive that contract at the lowest bidder's price. If the lowest qualified local bidder cannot match the lowest bid, the next qualified lowest bidder who is within 5 per cent of the lowest bid will be given the opportunity to match the lowest bid. The new policy contains the word "may" rather "shall" in reference to awarding the contract. It was explained that this word gives the board some flexibility if, for instance, the county has had problems previously with a local bidder.

Commissioner Bryant Culpepper stated that, while the word "may" gives the board flexibility, there is the danger that a local bidder could be excluded because of personality conflicts. The new policy also defines local vendors and allows for exceptions in accordance with local, state and federal laws.

The new policy starts at bids of \$10,000. The county administrator has the authority to spend funds up to \$10,000 without board approval.

County administrator Robbie Chartier said that in 2011, 40 percent of the operating budget was spent locally.

Commissioners also approved a 5-year paving plan. The road department has evaluated and prioritized the county's road paving needs. Each year specific sections of road are scheduled to be paved. The total mileage for each year varies from 4.75 to 6.7. Each year in the future the fifth year will be added to the plan, so they are always planning five years out. Commissioners were informed that they would have the option of changing the roads being paved each year as the paving contract is awarded. Deputy county administrator Jim Threewitts stated that each year's projects were scheduled to be fundable. However, the exact cost would not be known until the annual contract is awarded.

The proposed budget for the coming year contains \$750,000 for paving.

Mrs. Chartier presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2012/13 which totals \$82.4 million. That is a \$7 million or 7.23 percent decrease from the current year's amended budget. At the next meeting commissioners will set a proposed millage rate for ad valorem taxes.

Gary Ritter, director of South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center, informed commissioners that the lake has dropped below 12 feet. Therefore, barring any significant rainfall over the weekend, he said the north shore locks will be closed on Monday.

Turning to other action, the board:

- tabled until next month, consideration of a settlement in the lawsuit involving Wooley Shed property in the county industrial park;

- approved health insurance coverage for county employees with Public Risk Management at a cost of \$8,532.84; and,

- approved optional dental coverage with Public Risk Management for county employees at the current rate of \$30.74 per month for single coverage and \$80.23 per month for family coverage.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

Community Events

Eagles North to host BINGO

Eagles North will host Bingo on Tuesday, **July 17** at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. Come on out! Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund. 9985 hwy 441 north, Okeechobee.

Cypress Hut Eagles to host Chicken Dinner

On Tuesday, **July 17**, at 5 p.m. Cypress Hut Eagles will host a Fried Chicken Dinner with all the fixins. Music with Carla and Bobby. All proceeds go to Community Charity Fund. Public is welcome.

Football camp planned

MOORE HAVEN—'Muck Area' Christian Football Camp will be held **July 28**, at Moore Haven Jr-Sr High School Field for Grades 7-12. Cost is \$10. The camp will feature former and current pro and college players, along with high school coaches. Recruiters from various colleges are also expected to attend. To reserve a spot or for more information call Rod @561.809.8300 or email rfelt10@aol.com.

Main Street plans mixer

The July Main Street Mixer will be sponsored by the Brown Cow Sweetery, 103 SW Park Street, on Thursday, **July 19**, from 5-7 p.m. Okeechobee Main Street mixers are free to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. This is an opportunity to meet fellow citizens and local business owners while you relax and enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and drinks. The theme for this event is a "Tacky Tourist" so bring your camera, hat, and shades to fit right in! For more information contact the Okeechobee Main Street Executive Director Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246 or stop in the Main Street office at 111 Northeast 2nd Street (directly north of CVS).

DAR plans summer brunch

Okeechobee DAR will have a Summer Brunch on Friday, **July 20** at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Su George, 1709 SW 28th Avenue, Okeechobee 863-763-0266. All members and those interested in DAR are invited.

Kirton in Miss American Preteen Pageant

Miss Shelby Kirton, 12, daughter of Dudley Kirton and Cheryl Kirton of Okeechobee, has been selected to represent Florida at the 2012 Miss American Preteen Pageant.

As the Florida Preteen, Shelby will be attending the National Pageant for her age group in Florida and Disney World during the week of Thanksgiving 2012. She will compete for the National Pageant title of Miss American Preteen and thousands of dollars in cash awards, prizes and scholarships.

Nationwide, state winners and state pageant finalists will compete in the twenty-ninth annual national scholarship competition organized by American Coed Pageants, Inc. National Talent, Speech, Academic Achievement, Community Service, Photoge-

nic, Personality, Most Promising Model, Best Actress and National Cover Girl and Hostess contests will be held in addition to the National Pageant Winner's contest. Since 1983, millions of dollars in cash awards and prizes have been presented to outstanding girls at state and national competitions. American Coed Pageants, Inc. annually holds state pageants for the purpose of recognizing and rewarding outstanding young women between the ages of three and twenty-two for their past and present accomplishments and to encourage them to set and achieve high goals for the future. In states where pageants are not held, selection of state representatives is made through written applications and photos.

Celebrate summer safely

Summertime is here! As you prepare for summertime fun, whether traveling or just enjoying the weather outdoors, the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville urges you to remain aware that summer poisoning hazards can threaten your family's health.

"As children are out of school for the summer, they may be spending more time unsupervised in or out of doors with ready access to potentially dangerous plants and home products," cautions Dr. Jay Schauben, director of the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center-Jacksonville. "Poison proof your home and outdoor areas by following a few simple tips to reduce the chance of accidental poisoning emergencies. However, if a poisoning emergency does occur, call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222."

- Barbecues are a summertime staple. Every summer the Poison Center has to deal with accidents involving charcoal lighter fluid. When the lighter fluid is accidentally swallowed, it is often aspirated in to the lungs. This can lead to difficulty in breathing and lung damage. Keep these products in their original containers and prevent access to them by children. If ingested, call the Poison Help line immediately at 1-800-222-1222. DO NOT induce vomiting as this can make it worse.

- Food poisoning, a common occurrence during this typically warm weather, is caused by bacterial growth in certain foods, such as mayonnaise-containing products or

uncooked foods, when they are not handled, cooked or stored properly. Symptoms of the most common types of food poisoning may include nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, diarrhea and fever. To stay safe, the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville recommends washing all counter tops, utensils and hands with warm, soapy water prior to and after food preparation; thawing meat and poultry in the refrigerator; and, avoiding leaving perishable food out of the refrigerator for more than two hours.

- When traveling, store medications, personal products, insect repellent or sunscreen, in locked suitcases away from children. Avoid bringing along "a few pills" in unmarked containers as these may not be child-resistant and they are unlabeled as to content or quantity. For visitors who are not used to the activity of children, remind them to properly store all personal products, especially prescription items, out of the reach and sight of children.

- Always follow directions carefully when using insect repellents as some products are not meant to be applied to the skin.

- If camping, be careful of the underbrush, as it could contain poison ivy or stinging/biting animals. Remember, "Leaves of three, let it be." If someone touches poison ivy, immediately rinse with plenty of running water for at least 15 minutes. For poisonous plant and animal contact, call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 for treatment information.



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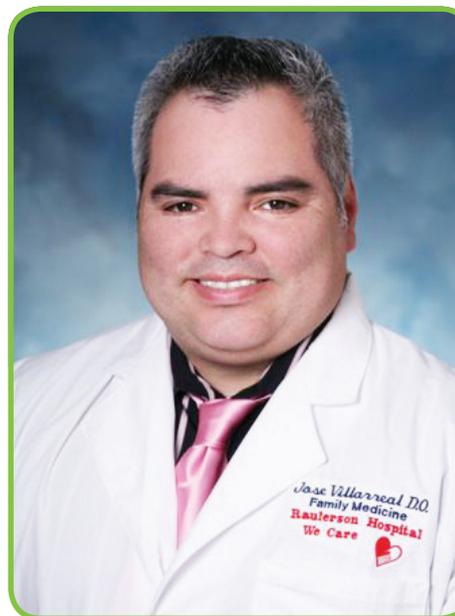
Jose Villarreal, D.O., member of the Raulerson Primary Care team and graduate of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, is certified in Family Medicine by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians.

He treats all ages from newborn to the elderly. Dr. Villarreal tries to give the best care possible to his patients and can refer them to a specialist if necessary. He does sport physicals and preventive care.

Dr. Villarreal treats such medical conditions as high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol.

About one in every four Americans suffers from high blood pressure, according to WebMD. High blood pressure can threaten healthy arteries and contribute to heart disease and stroke. One thing that makes high blood pressure so dangerous is that you may not know you have it because there are generally no symptoms. Therefore, you should have your blood pressure checked regularly.

Diabetes can be prevented through a



A variety of factors including diet, exercise, age and heredity can affect cholesterol levels.

Dr. Villarreal's office is located at 202 N.E. Second Ave, and the hours are Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm and on Friday from 8am to 4pm. The office is closed for lunch every day from noon to 1pm. For an appointment, please call 863.467.2159.

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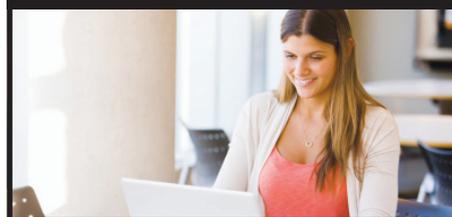
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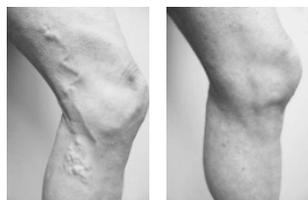


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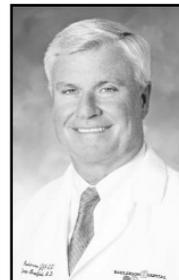


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Rotary honors Rookie of the Year Denise Whitehead

By Tabitha Trent

Special to the Okeechobee News

Every year the Rotary Club of Okeechobee recognizes a "new" family member for his/her selfless acts, enthusiasm, volunteerism in community projects and a heart for serving others. This year's recipient Denise Whitehead certainly displayed every character trait that epitomizes Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." Denise's sincere desire to serve others was very apparent in her participation in all of Rotary's local events, as well as other Rotary districts. She takes serving others to heart and is instilling this very quality in her daughter Makaya who too has participated in many events and fundraisers to experience the meaning of "paying it forward while serving others."

After graduating from the University of

Wisconsin in Stevens Point with a degree in Interpersonal Communications, Denise worked for a private juvenile justice program called Vision Quest which provided alternative therapeutic programs to at-risk youth. She spent two years traveling with their wagon trains and two years working their inner city programs in Philadelphia before relocating to one of their residential programs in Okeechobee. Denise and her daughter have been residents of Okeechobee for ten years. In 2008, she transitioned from the social services field and accepted a position with Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc. as their Okeechobee District Office Supervisor. Denise loves working for a non-profit company like Glades Electric as they are community minded and uphold a strong sense of business ethics.

IRSC taking applications for nursing asst. program

Students are job ready in seven weeks

Indian River State College (IRSC) is now accepting applications for its Nursing Assistant program, which offers preparation for a job as a nursing assistant in only seven weeks. Students attend 20 hours per week with convenient day or night classes. The program will begin Aug. 23 and is offered at the Mueller Campus in Vero Beach, Chastain Campus in Stuart, Dixon Hendry Campus in Okeechobee and Blackburn Educational Building on Avenue D in Fort Pierce.

Nursing Assistants work under the supervision of medical staff and provide basic patient care in hospitals, nursing homes, physicians' offices, clinics and homes. Most Nursing Assistants help with activities such as bathing and feeding. Apply now to become a member of the health care team. The Nursing Assistant program is the first step in the nursing career ladder which includes Licensed Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse. For more information, contact the IRSC Nursing Department at (772) 462-7570 or the IRSC Call Center at 1-866-792-4772.

March of Dimes offers helpful information about birth defects

Birth defects are health conditions that are present at birth. Birth defects change the shape or function of one or more parts of the body. They can cause problems in overall health, how the body develops, or in how the body works.

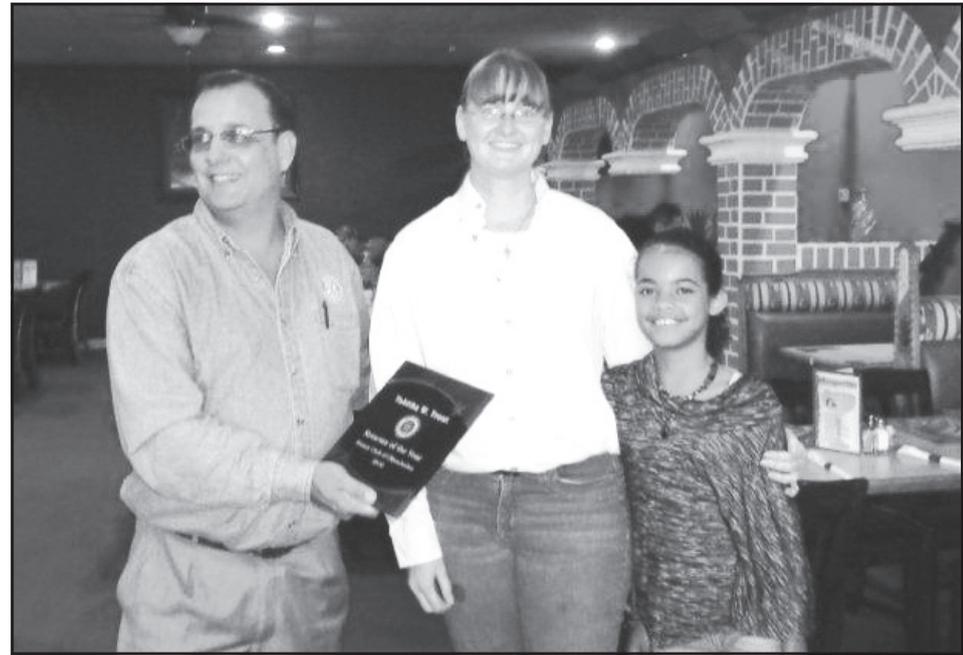
There are thousands of different birth defects. About 120,000 babies in the United States are born each year with a birth defect. The most common birth defects are heart defects, cleft lip and cleft palate, Down syndrome, and spina bifida. While there's been lots of research, we still don't know the causes of some birth defects.

If a woman drinks alcohol during pregnancy, her baby may have a birth defect. Some street drugs and some prescription drugs can cause birth defects, too. Also, if a woman gets certain infections during pregnancy, such as cytomegalovirus or a sexually transmitted infection, her baby may develop a birth defect. Some birth defects are caused by genetic conditions. Genetic conditions are passed from parents to children through

genes. The baby could get something from his mother, his father, or both parents that can cause a birth defect.

Birth defects can cause disabilities and even death. If you are pregnant, or thinking about becoming pregnant, ask your health care provider what you can do to prevent birth defects.

The March of Dimes has led the way to discover the genetic causes of birth defects, to promote newborn screening, and to educate medical professionals and the public about best practices for healthy pregnancy. The March of Dimes' recent Folic Acid Campaign achieved a dramatic reduction in the incidence of neural tube defects, birth defects of the brain and spine. Anyone needing more information about pregnancy issues should visit www.marchofdimes.com. Anyone interested in being a part of the March of Dimes' major fundraiser, March for Babies, should call Laura McCall at 863-763-3131 or Cindy at 772-562-0115.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Tabitha Trent

Okeechobee Rotary Club recently named their newest member for her acts of selflessness, enthusiasm, volunteerism in serving others. Denise Whitehead (center) along with her daughter Makaya at her side received the award for their efforts in "Paying it forward."

Preschool hosts VPK Roundup

VPK roundup will be at Stepping Stones Academy on Tuesday, July 17, 4 to 6 p.m. Parents will have the opportunity to see the school and what it offers. It is open to the public and Pat Hickman will be onsite to sign their children up for VPK. They must be 4 yrs. old on or before Sept. 1, 2012 to receive three hours of free VPK and to get your certificate that night.

Parents need the following documents:

- Photo ID;
- Proof of residence (the address on the

document cannot be a Post Office box)

Driver's license, utility bill, rental/lease agreement, Government-issued document with current address such as photo ID card, voter's registration card or property tax showing homestead exemption, or ELC residency form – plus landlord's current utility bill;

- Proof of birth (original birth certificate or passport or immunization record);
- Social Security number.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONTINUE IMPOSITION AND PROVIDE FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the City Council of the City of Okeechobee, Florida, will conduct a public hearing to consider continuing the imposition of annual solid waste collection special assessments for the provision of residential solid waste collection and disposal services within the incorporated area of the City of Okeechobee, Florida.

The hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the City Council. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. City Clerk media are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Clerk. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.

Copies of the Solid Waste Collection, Disposal and Assessment Ordinance No. 784 and all subsequent Assessment Resolutions are available for inspection at the Office of the City Clerk located at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Room 100, Okeechobee, Florida, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except holidays. The assessments are a non-ad valorem assessment and will be collected by the Tax Collector in the same manner as your ad valorem tax bill, to be mailed in November 2012, as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property, which may result in a loss of title.

By: James E. Kirk, Mayor

Attest: Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk

PUBLISHED: 7/13/2012, Okeechobee News

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Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

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Collectibles

WANTED - Highwaymen Oil Paintings. H. Newton, A. Hair, R.A. McClen-don, G. Buckner, 1715 Fleet Treasure Coins. Big \$\$ Call 772-562-5567

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

Pets/Supplies

10 WEEK OLD BLUE TICK HOUND PUPPIES, M/F, \$250 TO \$300 863-634-1131

Australian Shepard AKC with papers, 10 weeks old, female, color primarily black, white strip on face and white feet \$600.00 (Local) Call 772-634-0396

Rottweiler Puppies 10 weeks old \$400 Call 863-634-1023

Yorkipoo Pups - Tiny Toys, males \$400. Female \$500. Cash Only. Shots/health cert. 863-610-2725.

Shop here first! The classified ads

Wanted To Buy

CASH FOR CARS No Title Needed, Any Condition. 268junk.com Call (863)484-2012

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.



Agriculture
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Farm Feed/Products

Alfalfa Hay for sale 70lb. bales \$16.00 a piece. Coastal and Oat Hay Mix \$8.00 a bale. Call 863-634-7051

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.



Rentals
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Apartments
IN TOWN Efficiency Apt. Nice area. Utilities & lawn included. \$625/mo. 1st & \$350 sec. Non smoking environment. No pets. 863-610-0861.

OAK TREE PLACE- 2br, 1ba, 2 story apt. w/screen porch, \$650, 1st, last \$500 sec. (863)634-3312 or (863)634-3313

OKEE - Huge, Clean, 2BR, 2BA, Nice area. Inside laundry. \$650. month. First & Sec. End Unit. Call 772-215-0098

VIKING/PRAIRIE - 1 br. Apartment. Very clean! \$650/mo. Incl. utils. No pets. Call Ron 561-329-8205.

Condos/Townhouses Rent
Duplex 2/1 207 NE 5th St \$700 mth 1st, last, \$500 Sec 863-634-3312.

TAYLOR CREEK - 1/1 Condo on ground floor. Unfurnished. Pool access. Washer, Dryer, Dishwasher. Includes water. \$700/mo. 1st month free. 863-801-3713

TAYLORCREEK - Condo, 2/2, ground floor, screened porch, tile. \$800/mo. + sec., inclds water, & pool. 863-801-3713

Houses - Rent
1004 SE 8th Drive Newly Remodeled 2 bed, 1 bath \$685.00 All appliances, tile floors, hurricane windows. July occupancy Last, security, references. Chris 863-447-3282 anytime

Houses - Rent
AFFORDABLE - New Houses. 3/1/1 for \$900, 3/2 for \$1000. Large yards. Bring pets. Call 561-723-2226.

CBS - 3BR, Southwest section, great location, remodeled & upgraded, Corian, marble, Oak cabinets, tile floors, 24/14 enclosed FL rm, huge fenced backyard, 12/12 wood shed, landscaped, comes with w/d. Move in date Aug. 5th. \$900/mo. 1st & sec. Credit & background check. 863-697-2161.

FT. Drum 33692 NE 9th Ave. 4 acre pasture, 1bdm CBS home, old barn, Pet Fee. \$500 deposit \$500 monthly Call 912-224-4658 or 734-637-2697

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

Kings Bay CBS Home, 2/2, 1 car garage, W/D, \$900 mo. Call 863-801-9163

NW area of Okee. 1BR, 2 people only. No pets. Non-smoker. Very quiet & clean. \$550/mo. \$250 dep. 863-697-1168

TREASURE ISLAND - 2/2, 3/2 & 4/3, semi furnished, clean, on water with boat dock. Starting at \$600 a month. Call (561)262-1390



Real Estate
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Land - Sale
10 Acres - Owner Financing - \$5,000 down - Park your trailer or build your house - 7 mins to town - (863) 763-6358

Lots - Sale
1/2 Acre Lot, fenced, oak trees, house or mobile home ok, off of 15A & 710 Hwy. \$25,000 obo. Call 863-467-4678

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

Great Building Lot Located in Brentwood Estates. 0.65 acres, water deposit paid, house pad in place to accommodate up to 3500 SQ. ft. home. REDUCED TO \$39,500 CARL @ 863-634-8617



Mobile Homes
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent
BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2BR, 2BA, C/Air. \$500 mo. Large 3BR, 2BA, C/Air. \$550 mo. No pets. Yearly lease, plus sec. (863)763-4031

KISSIMMEE RIVER Estates, 2 Bedroom, 17216 Brynwood Lane, \$400 mo. + \$400 deposit. Lawn & Water maintenance included. 317-402-5441 or 863-261-4138

Mobile Home Sale
35 Ft. 2/bdrm Trailer, vinyl siding, Fl. room, screen room, carport, new AC/H, W&D, furnished. \$39,900 Ancient Oaks. Call 863-467-2146

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.



Recreation
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Campers/RVs
Wanted all Travel Trailers, Motor Homes and Fifth Wheels. Any Condition, Cash paid on the spot Call 941-347-7171

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.



Automotive
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Automobiles
07 Chevy Cobalt 4d, LS Low mileage, great on gas, 25 city, 34 hwy, NADA/Kelly Blue Book \$9,000. Asking \$7,500 obo 772-291-8799

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.



Public Notices
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD128
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2230** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 21 BLOCK 7**
1-15-36-35-0040-00070-0210
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **RHAFICK WILLIAMS**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418133 ON 6/29;7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD127
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2216** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 23 BLOCK 3**
1-15-36-35-0040-00030-0230
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **DOLORES H HERBACH**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418132 ON 6/29;7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD124
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **1976** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **COM AT SE COR OF NW1/4 SEC 17 RUN S 89 DEG 30 MIN W ALONG THE S BDRY LINE OF NW1/4 OF SEC 17 DIST OF 976.19 FT TO A PT ON ESTRLY R/W LINE OF STATE RD 15 THENCE RUN N 28 DEG 54 MIN 30 SEC W ON SAID R/W LINE FOR A DIST OF 1128.43 FT FOR POB THENCE RUN N 61 DEG 05 MIN 30 SEC E DIST OF 300 FT TO A PT THENCE S 61 DEG 05 MIN 30 SEC W DIST OF 300 FT TO A PT ON ESRLY R/W LINE OF RD 15 THENCE RUN N 28 DEG 54 MIN 30 SEC W ON SAID R/W LINE DIST OF 50 FT TO POB 17 33S 35E .34 ACRE**
1-17-33-35-0010-00030-0010
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **A ODELL THURMAN**
VALERIE G THURMAN
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD124
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **1976** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **COM AT SE COR OF NW1/4 SEC 17 RUN S 89 DEG 30 MIN W ALONG THE S BDRY LINE OF NW1/4 OF SEC 17 DIST OF 976.19 FT TO A PT ON ESTRLY R/W LINE OF STATE RD 15 THENCE RUN N 28 DEG 54 MIN 30 SEC W ON SAID R/W LINE FOR A DIST OF 1128.43 FT FOR POB THENCE RUN N 61 DEG 05 MIN 30 SEC E DIST OF 300 FT TO A PT THENCE S 61 DEG 05 MIN 30 SEC W DIST OF 300 FT TO A PT ON ESRLY R/W LINE OF RD 15 THENCE RUN N 28 DEG 54 MIN 30 SEC W ON SAID R/W LINE DIST OF 50 FT TO POB 17 33S 35E .34 ACRE**
1-17-33-35-0010-00030-0010
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **A ODELL THURMAN**
VALERIE G THURMAN
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD124
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **1976** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **COM AT SE COR OF NW1/4 SEC 17 RUN S 89 DEG 30 MIN W ALONG THE S BDRY LINE OF NW1/4 OF SEC 17 DIST OF 976.19 FT TO A PT ON ESTRLY R/W LINE OF STATE RD 15 THENCE RUN N 28 DEG 54 MIN 30 SEC W ON SAID R/W LINE FOR A DIST OF 1128.43 FT FOR POB THENCE RUN N 61 DEG 05 MIN 30 SEC E DIST OF 300 FT TO A PT THENCE S 61 DEG 05 MIN 30 SEC W DIST OF 300 FT TO A PT ON ESRLY R/W LINE OF RD 15 THENCE RUN N 28 DEG 54 MIN 30 SEC W ON SAID R/W LINE DIST OF 50 FT TO POB 17 33S 35E .34 ACRE**
1-17-33-35-0010-00030-0010
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **A ODELL THURMAN**
VALERIE G THURMAN
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418127 ON 6/29;7/6,13,20/2012

Public Notice
Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."
Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Public Notice
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD142
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2308** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
Description of Property: **CAREY SUBDIVISION LOTS 18 19 22 BLOCK 3**
1-15-37-35-0100-00030-0180
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **GERALDINE BERTRAM**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

Public Notice
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD129
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2232** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 23 BLOCK 7**
1-15-36-35-0040-00070-0230
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **JAMES HERBACH**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418146 ON 6/29;7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD129
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2232** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 23 BLOCK 7**
1-15-36-35-0040-00070-0230
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **JAMES HERBACH**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418134 ON 6/29;7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD147
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2992** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
Description of Property: **ROSE ACRES LOT 17**
1-20-37-36-0010-00000-0170
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **ALINE NORMAN**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418152 ON 6/29;7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD147
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2992** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
Description of Property: **ROSE ACRES LOT 17**
1-20-37-36-0010-00000-0170
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **ALINE NORMAN**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418152 ON 6/29;7/6,13,20/2012

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 11000439CA
REGIONS BANK, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER WITH UNION PLANTERS BANK, N.A., D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE, Plaintiff,
-vs- PAUL J. ARNOLD and THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF PAUL J. ARNOLD; JOSE E. SANTIAGO, if living, and all unknown parties claiming by, through, under or against the above named Defendants who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said unknown parties may claim an interest as spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees or other claimants, claiming by, through, under or against the said PAUL J. ARNOLD, THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF PAUL J. ARNOLD or JOSE E. SANTIAGO; TAYLOR CREEK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC. A FLORIDA NON-PROFIT CORPORATION; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; and UNKNOWN TENANT #2; Defendants

NOTICE OF ACTION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE
TO: **JOSE E. SANTIAGO**, if living, and all unknown parties claiming by, through, under or against the above named Defendant who is not known to be dead or alive, whether said unknown parties may claim an interest as spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees or other claimants, claiming by, through, under or against the said JOSE E. SANTIAGO, if he is deceased. Whose Residence is Unknown Whose Last Known Mailing Address is: 92 Colonel Bell Drive, Apt. 8, Brockton, MA 02301-1979 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to reform and foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida: UNIT NO. 3, BUILDING 3, TAYLOR CREEK CONDOMINIUM, A CONDOMINIUM ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF RECORDED IN O.R. BOOK 221, PAGE 370, AND RECORDED IN O.R. BOOK 225, PAGE 1640, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ROD B. NEUMAN, Esquire, of Gibbons, Neuman, Bello, Segal, Allen & Halloran, P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 3321 Henderson Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33609, within 30 days from the date of the first publication of this notice and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. DATED this 20th day of June, 2012. Sharon Robertson CLERK CIRCUIT COURT By: Aylene Nealis Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. NOTE: THIS COMMUNICATION, FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR, IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 420443 ON 6/22;29;7/6,13/2012

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Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD134
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2255** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LAKE IN SAID BLOCK 11**
1-15-36-35-0040-00110-0270
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **ALBERT JULES**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418141 ON 6/29/7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD133
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2254** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 18 BLOCK 11**
1-15-36-35-0040-00110-0180
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **ALBERT JULES**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418138 ON 6/29/7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD131
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2251** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 30 BLOCK 10**
1-15-36-35-0040-00100-0300
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **RHAFICK WILLIAMS**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418136 ON 6/29/7/6,13,20/2012

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad. Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD132
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2252** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 31 BLOCK 10**
1-15-36-35-0040-00100-0310
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **RHAFICK WILLIAMS**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418137 ON 6/29/7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD149
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **3425** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
Description of Property: **WRIGHTS 1ST ADDITION LOTS 8 & 9 BLOCK 6**
3-22-37-35-0230-00060-0080
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **GERALDINE A BERTRAM**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418154 ON 6/29/7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD148
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **3134** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
Description of Property: **OKEECHOBEE HAMMOCK SEC ONE LOT 9 BLOCK 7**
1-09-38-36-0010-00070-0090
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **ABDUL M CUMBER**
YASMINE CUMBER
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418153 ON 6/29/7/6,13,20/2012

Your new car could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it? The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD139
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JG JFG LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2572** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**
Description of Property: **ALL THAT PART OF CONNERS HIGHLANDS SUBDIVISION PLAT IN SECTION 9 TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH RANGE 35 EAST AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1 PAGE 21 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA LYING SOUTH & WEST OF WHAT IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS CITY LIMIT CANAL & EAST OF CHOKALOSKEE STREET AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT .63 ACRES 09 37S 35E**
1-09-37-35-0A00-00004-F000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **E BYRD**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418149 ON 6/29/7/6,13,20/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD146
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2864** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
Description of Property: **LOT 93 A SPOT IN THE SUN UNIT II AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION LYING IN SECTION 15 TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH RANGE 36 EAST OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 15 BEAR EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 15 A DISTANCE OF 2205.02 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID A SPOT IN THE SUN UNIT II SUBDIVISION THENCE BEAR SOUTH 00 DEG 32 MIN 15 SEC EAST ALONG THE SAID WEST LINE OF SAID A SPOT IN THE SUN UNIT II SUBDIVISION A DISTANCE OF 2436.35 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 93 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 00 DEG 32 MIN 15 SEC EAST ALONG SAID WEST LINE OF SAID A SPOT IN THE SUN UNIT II SUBDIVISION A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 93 THENCE BEAR NORTH 89 DEG 27 MIN 45 SEC EAST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 93 A DISTANCE OF 218.00 FEET TO THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A COUNTY ROAD THENCE BEAR NORTH 00 DEG 32 MIN 15 SEC WEST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A COUNTY ROAD A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET THENCE BEAR SOUTH 89 DEG 27 MIN 45 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 93 A DISTANCE OF 218.00 FEET TO THE SAID WEST LINE OF SAID A SPOT IN THE SUN UNIT II SUBDIVISION AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING**
1-15-37-36-0A00-00002-0930
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **FLORENCE F BELL GUARDIAN FOR DONALD LEE BELL**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418151 ON 6/29/7/6,13,20/2012

CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.**, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.
James E. Kirk, Mayor
Lane Gamioeta, CMC, City Clerk
421926 ON 7/13/2012

NOTICE OF CITY PLANNING BOARD MEETING
NOTICE: The City of Okeechobee Planning Board will meet as the Local Planning Agency on **Thursday, July 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider any proposed amendments, submitted by City Staff or citizens, to the adopted City Comprehensive Plan, which may include amendments to the adopted Land Development Regulations (LDR's). All amendments are forwarded, with a recommendation, to the City Council for final consideration. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue, in the Council Chambers, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact General Services at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the General Services Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.
BY: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator
421925 ON 7/13/2012

Public Notice

Public Notice

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES
In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Okeechobee County School Board will consider adoption/amendment of the School Board policies listed below at their meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office at 700 S.W. Second Avenue, Okeechobee. A copy of the proposed amendments/policies are available in the Superintendent's office, Room 307, located at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue.
ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY 5.28 Children of Military Families
I. This policy includes general guidelines for assisting children of military families in transitioning between schools.
II. The proposed policy is recommended to meet current requirements of Florida Statutes.
III. The legal authority for this policy is F.S. 1001.41 and 1001.42. Laws implemented are F.S. 1000.36, 1001.43, 1003.05.
IV. This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.
AMENDMENT OF BOARD POLICY 7.10 School Budget System
I. This policy states the Board's intent regarding fiscal budget policy.
II. The proposed revision of the policy more clearly defines current practice and requirements of Florida Statute.
III. The legal authority for this policy is F.S. 1001.41, 1001.42. Laws implemented are 1001.43, 1008.385, 1010.01, 1010.04, 1011.01-1011.18.
IV. This policy adoption will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.
AMENDMENT OF BOARD POLICY 7.101 Accounting and Control Procedures
I. This policy provides general direction and responsibility for financial records and accounts of the School Board.
II. The proposed amendment adds language to assure compliance with GASB Statement #54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions.
III. The legal authority for this policy is F.S. 1001.41, 1001.42. Laws implemented are F.S. 215.85, Ch.668, 1001.43, 1001.51, 1010.11, 1011.60, 1011.62.
IV. This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.
Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools
421274 ON 7/13/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD145
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2678** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
Description of Property: **TRACT 9 COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 34 RUN EAST A DISTANCE OF 125.05 FEET THEN RUN SOUTH 00 DEG 00 MIN 54 SEC EAST ALONG THE WEST BOUNDARY OF A DEDICATED ROAD DESCRIBED IN OR BOOK 130 PAGE 871 A DISTANCE OF 400 FEET FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE SOUTH ALONG THE DEDICATED ROAD A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET THEN RUN SOUTH 89 DEG 52 MIN 29 SEC WEST A DISTANCE OF 124.97 FEET TO A POINT THEN RUN NORTH 0 DEG 02 MIN WEST A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET THEN RUN NORTH 89 DEG 52 MIN 29 SEC EAST A DISTANCE OF 124.97 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING SAID LAND LYING IN & COMPRISING A PART OF GOVERNMENT LOT 1 SECTION 34 TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH RANGE 35 EAST OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA**
1-34-37-35-0A00-00026-B000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **OVITA FRANCES HAMBLEN**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **9th day of August, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 418150 ON 6/29/7/6,13,20/2012



Need to Find a Doctor?
Check out our Medical Directory in Wednesday and Friday's Okeechobee News

Public Notice

CITATION
G.L.c. 210, §6
Docket No. HD12A0049AD
Commonwealth of
Massachusetts The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

In the matter of:
Savannah Marie Vasquez
TO:
Maria Carmen Vasquez
otherwise **Carmen Vasquez**
any unnamed or unknown parent
and persons interested in a petition
for the adoption of said child and to
the Department of Children and
Families of said Commonwealth.
A petition has been presented to said
court by:
Jessica McDaniel of Indian Orchard,
MA requesting to leave to adopt said
child and that the name of the child be
changed to Savannah Ann Jefferson
Hamden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 745-7758

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERE-
TO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST
FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN
SAID COURT AT: Springfield on or
before ten o'clock in the morning
(10:00 AM) on 07/27/2012.
WITNESS, Hon. Anne M. Geoffrion,
First Justice of this Court.
DATE: June 25, 2012
Florence P. Morintig Jr.
Register of Probate

421289 ON 7/6,13,20/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY,
FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2012-CP-22

IN RE: ESTATE OF:
JERRY G. SHERER,
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate
of **JERRY G. SHERER**, deceased,
whose date of death was November
28, 2011, and whose Social Security
number is 287-38-3613, is the Circuit
Court for Okeechobee, Florida, Pro-
bate Division, File No.: 2012-CP-022;
the address of is Probate Division,
312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee,
Florida 34972. The names and ad-
resses of the personal representa-
tive and the personal
representative's attorney are set
forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and
other persons having claims or de-
mands against decedent's estate, in-
cluding unmatured, contingent or
unliquidated claims, on whom a copy
of this notice is served must file their
claims with this court WITHIN THE
LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE
DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION
OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER
THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY
OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent
and other persons who have claims
or demands against the decedent's
estate, including unmatured, contin-
gent or unliquidated claims, must file
their claims with this Court WITHIN
THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE
DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION
OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT
FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS
SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF
THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL
BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITH-
STANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET
FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED
TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER
THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH
IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this
Notice is July 13, 2012.

HEIDI J. SHERER
Personal Representative
1232 N.W. 50th Drive
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
WILLIAM J. WALLACE, P.A.
Attorney for Personal Representative
115 NW 11th Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863-467-4671
Fax: 863-763-5360
421875 ON 7/13,20/2012

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
19 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE
COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 47-2012-CA-000063

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO
NATIONAL CITY BANK, SUCCESSOR BY
MERGER HARBOR FEDERAL SAV-
INGS BANK
Plaintiff,
VS.
ROBERT NICHLAS, DECEASED HIS/
HER RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN SPOU-
SES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, AS-
SIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND
TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS
CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR
AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT;
AND THE AFOREMENTIONED NAMED
DEFENDANT AND SUCH OF THE
AFOREMENTIONED UNKNOWN D E -
FENDANT AND SUCH OF THE UN-
KNOWN NAMED DEFENDANT AS MAY
BE INFANTS, INCOMPETENTS O R
OTHERWISE NOT SUI JURIS; et al.
Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF ACTION-
FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS

TO: ROBERT NICHLAS, DECEASED
HIS/HER RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN
SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,
GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDI-
TORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES,
AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIM-
ING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR
AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT;
AND THE AFOREMENTIONED NAMED
DEFENDANT AND SUCH OF THE
AFOREMENTIONED UNKNOWN DE-
FENDANT AND SUCH OF THE UN-
KNOWN NAMED DEFENDANT AS
MAY BE INFANTS, INCOMPETENTS
OR OTHERWISE NOT SUI JURIS

including any unknown spouse of the
Defendant, if remarried and if said
Defendant is dead, his/her respective
unknown spouse, heirs, devisees,
grantees, assignees, creditors, lien
holders, and trustees, and all other
persons claiming by, through, under
or against the named Defendant;
and the aforementioned named De-
fendant and such of the aforemen-
tioned unknown Defendant and such
of the unknown named Defendant as
may be infants, incompetents, or
otherwise not sui juris.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that
an action to foreclose a mortgage on
the following described property, to-
wit:

Lot 23, Southern Homesteads, Unit
2, according to the Plat thereof on
file in the Office of the Clerk of the
Circuit Court in and for Okeechobee
County, Florida, recorded in
Plat Book 6, Pages 88 abd 89.
More commonly known as 27870 NE
48th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972.
This action has been filed against
you, and you are required to serve a
copy of your written defense, if any,
to it on Plaintiffs attorney, Wellman,
Weinberg & Reis, Co., L.P.A., whose
address is 550 West Cypress Creek
Road, Suite 550, Fort Lauderdale, FL
33309, on or before 30 days after
date of first publication, and file the
original with the Clerk of the Circuit
Court either before service on Plaint-
iffs attorney or immediately thereaf-
ter; otherwise a default will be
entered against you for the relief de-
manded in the Complaint.

Witness my hand and seal of this
Court on the 2nd day of July, 2012.

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Okeechobee County, Florida
By: Arlene Nealis
Deputy Clerk

Wellman, Weinberg & Reis, Co., L.P.A.
Attorney for Plaintiff
550 West Cypress Creek Road,
Suite 550
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Telephone No.: 954-740-5200
Facsimile: 954-740-5290

If you are a person with a disability
who needs any accommodation in
order to participate in this proceed-
ing, you are entitled, at no cost to
you, to the provision of certain assis-
tance. Please contact Corrie Johnson,
ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country
Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie,
FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7
days before your scheduled court ap-
pearance, or immediately upon re-
ceiving this notification if the time
before the scheduled appearance is
less than 7 days; if you are hearing
or voice impaired, call 711.
WWR File # 10086504
421427 ON 7/6,13/2012

Community Events

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Pert
- 6 Top grade, in slang
- 9 Trees along tropical beaches
- 14 Aptly named cooler brand
- 15 Small island
- 16 Perpendicular to the keel
- 17 Not-so-humorous humerus spot
- 19 Tri- plus bi-
- 20 Drink from leaves
- 21 Hockey legend Bobby et al.
- 22 Sea north of Poland
- 23 Exam taker's dread
- 25 Grubs and maggots
- 29 Manhattan sch.
- 30 "Garfield" pooch
- 31 Fan mag
- 34 Annual parade celeb
- 39 Daydreams
- 42 Joe Cocker's "You ___ Beautiful"
- 43 Formal coiffure
- 44 Alan of "The Aviator"
- 45 Slangy "No reason"
- 47 "Amen to that!"
- 49 Devoid of niceties, as some politics
- 55 Disinclined
- 56 Works a tough row?
- 57 "The Amazing Race" aier
- 60 Prove apt for
- 61 Racer's edge, or the ends of 17-, 23-, 39- and 49-Across, unflatteringly
- 63 Mountain ridge
- 64 www address
- 65 Otherworldly
- 66 IHOP condiment
- 67 1/30 of abril
- 68 Seed anew

- 4 Put one over on
- 5 Cellist with 16 Grammys
- 6 Item in a fall stash
- 7 Art able to
- 8 Tropical cyclone center
- 9 41st president, affectionately
- 10 Clear as ___
- 11 Slowly, in music
- 12 "It slices! It dices!" gadget Veg-O-___
- 13 Wallop
- 18 Zephyr
- 22 Journalist Nellie
- 24 What all good things come to
- 25 Crazy, in a Ricky Martin song
- 26 Month after Shevat
- 27 Increase
- 28 November honorees
- 32 Liar Joe in old TV car ads
- 33 Hip flask quickie
- 35 Greenish blue
- 36 Sidekicks
- 37 Verdi opera
- 38 Projector's slide holder
- 40 Rigidly inflexible process
- 41 Worked arduously
- 46 Arles article
- 48 Like the preferable evil
- 49 Rum-soaked cakes
- 50 Lincoln Center's ___ Fisher Hall
- 51 Allude (to)
- 52 Verdi aria that means "It was you"
- 53 Strasbourg sweetheart
- 54 Eucalyptus muncher
- 57 Jaguar and Impala
- 58 Verve
- 59 Hearty entrée
- 61 1963 Paul Newman film
- 62 Casual top

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	P	C	A	T	O	G	O	C	H	E	C	K
T	O	A	N	O	N	E	A	H	A	T	H	A
R	I	N	K	D	I	N	K	A	C	H	A	T
O	R	T	H	O	D	O	X	A	S	K	I	N
D	O	E	K	I	N	E	A	S	S	A	I	L
E	T	D	E	E	S	W	H	I	S	P	E	R
O	C	H	O	M	E	N	W	A	S	S	A	I
C	O	I	N	C	I	D	E	R	F	K	C	A
T	U	S	K	E	R	S	H	E	E	P	C	P
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Robert Fisher
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SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

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8	5	6	2	4	3	7	1	9
1	2	3	7	9	5	6	8	4
9	4	7	8	6	1	3	2	5
5	7	2	9	1	8	4	6	3
4	6	8	5	3	2	9	7	1
3	9	1	4	7	6	2	5	8
7	1	4	6	5	9	8	3	2
2	3	9	1	8	7	5	4	6
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ANSWER:



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Bridgette Waldau Graphic Design Scholarship

Bridgette Waldau Graphic Design Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are Savanna Whitlock and Bridgette Waldau.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Okeechobee Main Street Scholarship

Okeechobee Main Street Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. Left to right are Tiffany Murray and Bridgette Waldau.

Reading a newspaper provides the opportunity to get involved in your community.

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OCRA Ozone All-Stars eliminated

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

SEBRING—One bad inning cost the Okeechobee All-Stars at the Florida Dixie Youth Ozone Division State Tournament Tuesday as the boys were eliminated by Marianna 3-2 in a game dominated by strikeouts.

Marianna starter Cameron Gray struck out 11 batters and Okeechobee's Gabe Greseth struck out 16 in a battle of hard throwing pitchers.

Marianna put together four singles and two hits batsmen to take a 3-0 lead in the top of the first against Greseth and those runs proved to be enough. Pender Johnson led off the game with a single, Dalton Smith was hit by a pitch, and Gray followed with a

two-run single. A third run scored on an RBI single by Riley Torbett.

Greseth celebrated his 13th birthday with a home run in the bottom of the first to help Okeechobee pull to within 3-1. He was dominant after the first and struck out four straight batters in the first and second innings. He also struck out the side in the third inning, the fifth and the sixth inning. Gray allowed a two-out single to Robert Jones in the second but also struck out the side in that inning.

Robert Jones made a nice running catch to cost Gray an extra base hit in the fourth. Greseth struck out eight consecutive batters at one point in the game.

There was a 45-minute lightning delay in the fourth inning. Strong rain storms affected play in the late innings.

Despite the loss, Okeechobee still had a strong tournament as they finish in the top six in the State.

Cody Louthan scored Okeechobee's second run as he reached base on a bunt single in the fourth, tagged up on a fly ball, and scored on a pair of wild pitches.

Pender Johnson made a diving catch in left field to rob Tristan Root of a base hit in the fifth.

Okeechobee again tried to rally in the sixth as Jarrett Mills reached on an infield single. Gray battled back to strike out Cody Louthan and Stuart and then retired Greseth on a ground out to second to end the game.

CHS gets grant to help 'aged out' foster youth

Children's Home Society of Florida, Treasure Coast Division, is pleased to announce it has received a \$15,000 grant from the Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers. The grant will provide individualized educational opportunities to cover tuition and costs for a broad range of certified programs and driving school for disadvantaged youth who have aged out of the foster care system.

The youth take part in the Transitional Living Program which provides residential and outreach services, case management, life skills training and temporary, safe housing in order to promote independence and prevent homelessness. The primary goal of the program is to prevent homelessness and break the cycle of abuse and neglect that have been part of these youth's lives. The Youth Transition Center (YTC), a key residential component of the program, is the only facility of its kind in the Treasure Coast region. YTC staff is on-site 24/7 and on-call 24 hours a day. Since October, Children's Home Society (CHS) has extended the Transitional Living Program beyond serving former foster youth to include a general population of homeless, disadvantaged youth through the

Street Outreach Program.

"We are truly thrilled Scripps is investing in the success of our youth and committing to make a difference in their lives," says Jan Swink, Executive Director of Children's Home Society, Treasure Coast Division. "Providing these services is a critical milestone in each youth becoming independent." The Children's Home Society of Florida is the sixth largest of more than 1,200 private organizations currently accredited and/or in process of accreditation in North America (US and Canada). The Treasure Coast Division, which is one of 15 divisions in Florida, served 11,607 children and their families in fiscal year 2011-2012 in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. CHS programs are developed to break the cycle of child abuse and provide children and young adults with the opportunity to be safe, healthy and prepared for life. For more information or to learn how you can help support the Transitional Living Program, contact Michelle King, Director of Development, at 772-344-4020 ext. 231 or visit chsfl.org.

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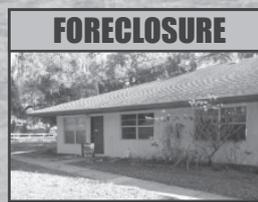
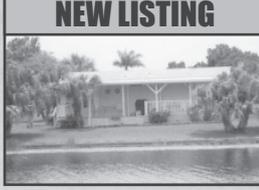
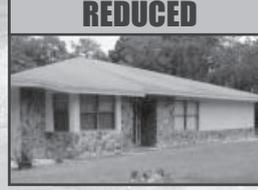
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	<p>5015-H: Beautiful Country home on 10+/- acres zoned Ag. Concrete & brick construction. 2122 SF under air/3196 TSF. Island kitchen, lg 30x60 barn w/3 stalls and workshop, fenced, pond, in-wall pest control. Too many extras to list! \$325,000 MLS #205942</p>	<p>FORECLOSURE</p> 	<p>1002-H: In town 4BR/1BA CBS with tile and carpet flooring throughout. 1,342 Total Sq Ft. Nice starter house or rental. Needs some TLC. Make offer! \$59,900</p>
<p>NEW LISTING</p> 	<p>1003-M: Seminole Cove 55+ community with Club House amenities. Great view of the lake, 2/2 DW MH w/addition, 2 Car carport, large driveway, Single/Metal roof, 1957 Total Sq Ft/ 1023 under air. \$69,900 MLS #206023</p>	<p>REDUCED</p> 	<p>1007-H: SW Section home with street on two sides. Living Sq ft 2343, large island kitchen, dining room with large Florida room with fireplace, appliances, lg Oak trees and fruit trees. \$170,000 NOW \$149,000 MLS #205526</p>
	<p>3003-H: King's Bay- 2 Bedroom 2 bath, screened porch, concrete driveway. Easy to show. HOA amenities in-ground pool, clubhouse, tennis court, and lawn. \$54,000 NOW \$47,900. Make offer! MLS #205169</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> 	<p>5004-M: Larkee Lakes (SE 58th DR) MH with additions. Screened porch, open porch in back, power generator, large carport and shed. 1380 Total Sq Ft. Nice location for east coast commuters. \$29,000 MLS #20600</p>

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Soccer camp attracts good group

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

There were 29 campers ages 7-15 that participated this year in the Okeechobee Club Soccer Fever Camp at Yearling Middle School and for the first time, a good percentage of the kids, were girls.

A real effort was made to recruit more girls to play soccer and perhaps improve the overall play of our middle school and high school girls soccer programs.

Soccer coach Lonnie Sears said he felt it was real positive to have more girls attend this three-day camp, "They have a bright future if these girls stick to it. I predict the OHS girls soccer program can turn around in the next five or six years," he explained.

Club Soccer has a girls travel team called the Ocelots that is coached by Bobbi Ingram. In the first year, the team has gained a lot of valuable experience and they play a rugged schedule against top Treasure Coast teams.

The three day camp from July 9-11 included instruction from Sears, Brewton Park College soccer player and former Brahman standout, and OHS assistant soccer coach Mark English. Sears taught mid fielders, English the defense and Torres worked with the strikers and forwards. The camp emphasized basic soccer skills for the young players. On Wednesday a special water party was held

for the kids.

"It was very positive, the kids learned some very valuable soccer skills and were really excited to be here," Sears added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Hugo Torres and other teens picked up some useful skills as they attended the Okeechobee Club Soccer youth camp this week.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Kids of all ages had a good time this summer with the Okeechobee Club Soccer Camp held this week.

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Area special events and celebrations planned ...

Day of the Cowboy celebration

OKEECHOBEE—The celebration of the National Day of the American Cowboy will be on Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28, in Okeechobee. At the center of the activities will be the Cattlemen's Ranch Rodeo and the Cattle Drive through the streets of Okeechobee. In addition to these events, a local Barbecue Competition will be hosted by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, with a "People's Choice" award and Barbecue Rib Dinner available for purchase. Local talent will demonstrate various cowboy trades and western goods including hats, jewelry and clothing, which will be sold by the many vendors. Local cowboy artists and authors will be on exhibit and, with several children's activities, will round out the event.

On Friday, July 27, this event will open at 5 p.m. and the rodeo will begin at 7 p.m. On Saturday, July 28, the gates will open to the public at 3 p.m., the cattle drive will leave at 4 p.m., the rodeo will take place at 6 p.m. and the event will close following a performance by the local band, "Burnt Biscuit." Admission is \$5 per person; children under 12 are free. The Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center is located at 4601 State Road 710, Okeechobee. Okeechobee Main Street and the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association are co-sponsors of this unique event. If you have any questions, please contact the Okeechobee Main Street office at 863-357-6246.

Clewiston Museum has Historical Eco Tours

CLEWISTON—The Clewiston Museum offers a Historical Eco-Tour. The trip starts with a morning at South Florida Water Management District's fabulous "Stormwater Treatment Area 5," a popular birding destination in Florida. The wonderful morning of birding is followed by a relaxing lunch at the scenic, Roland Martin Marina in Clewiston.

After lunch, the tour will travel on top of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's "Herbert Hoover Dike" for eight miles. Along the way, the tour guide will give an historical interpretation of Lake Okeechobee. The trip ends with a visit to the Clewiston Museum, which provides great exhibits on the area's history. For information, call 863-983-2870 or clewistonmuseum@embarqmail.com

IRSC Art Gallery open

FORT PIERCE—Indian River State College's Art Gallery, L Building, Room 117, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The gallery promotes understanding the Visual Arts through a diverse schedule and workshops by professional artists. This allows students to gain practical experience from those contemporary artists who are successful in their profession. The Gallery seeks to showcase a breadth of artworks from student work to the most innovative artists working in today's environment. Currently each year IRSC's gallery has four professional shows, one national level competitive show, two student shows and a very popular all IRSC faculty show. For more information, call the gallery manager at 772-462-7824.

Party like a Rockstar

STUART—Terry Barber, executive director of Artists for a Cause (A4AC), has announced a four-part fundraising series called "Party Like A Rockstar" which will be held at the StarStruck Performing Arts Center, 2101 S. Kanner Highway, in Stuart. This series is the first-ever fundraiser benefiting the non-profit organization. The premiere event of the series, on Saturday, July 14, is Beatles night featuring McCartney Mania, a Beatles cover band, plus as many as ten of A4AC's best registered artists singing their favorite Beatles number. The theatre at StarStruck will be transformed into a concert venue with room to mingle and dance, stadium seating, and multiple bar stations—Rockstar style! Additional shows scheduled in the series are Around the World on a Beer and a Song in October 2012, Folk Rock and Acoustic Soul and Teen Rock!, dates to be advised. Another feature of the July 14 event is a Chinese and Silent auction coordinated by A4AC volunteer, Sandy Rucks. Items from A4AC registered artists and local merchants will be the auction items. Chinese auction tickets will be available in advance at the A4AC office, 2688 SE Willoughby Blvd, Suite B in Stuart or at the event. For additional information call 772-419-8778 or email bonnie@a4ac.org. Funds raised at this series will support A4AC and its programs—Dance for Food, Therapeutic Music Day, A4AC Scholarships and Benefit Concerts—all of which improve communities through artistic endeavors.

Immokalee casino hosts concert and festival

IMMOKALEE—Put on your favorite bell bottoms and platforms and head on over to Seminole Casino Immokalee's "Fantasy of Funk" festival on Saturday, July 21. The outdoor event features performances by George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic, Nouveaux Honkies, Bonerama and Glen David Andrews Band. Gourmet food trucks will also serve delectable treats throughout the festival.

To kick off the day of funk, Seminole Casino Immokalee will host a free party at its Zig Zag Lounge on Friday, July 20, at 7 p.m. Party-goers with the funkiest outfits will be rewarded with great prizes. They'll also groove to live tunes from blues and R&B group Nouveaux Honkies. The band's sounds have been compared to that of the Rolling Stones, with hints of Dire Straits, Curtis Mayfield, Jimmy Hendrix and Howlin' Wolf. The group's second album, "Where Do I Go," reached number 3 on the roots country chart.

The "Fantasy of Funk" festival begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 21, just outside of the casino. More than 10 food trucks from across the state will be on hand.

At sundown, George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic will top off the music festival with an electrifying performance of generation-spanning jams.

For festival tickets call 1-800-218-0007. No coolers and no pets. Bring your own chairs. Rain or shine.

Okeechobee summer games

OKEECHOBEE—Feel the excitement of the 2012 Summer Olympics by participating in Okeechobee's 'Olympic-style' Summer Games. Register teams of 4-15 people to compete in Olympic-style events: Day 1 - Aug. 4; and Day 2 - Aug. 11. Tentative list of events



include: free-style relay swim, inner tube sprint, basketball shoot-out, synchronized swimming, table tennis, and field events. Junior Division 14-17; Adult Division 18 & up. Call the Parks & Recreation Department for more details at 863-763-6950.

PERFORMING ARTS

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Jazz Jams

FORT PIERCE—The beautifully restored, 1,200-seat Sunrise Theatre, located in historic downtown Fort Pierce at 117 South Second Street, presents national touring musical and comedy acts, Broadway shows, ballet and opera companies with full orchestras. Also located within the theatre complex is the 220-seat Black Box Theatre, a state-of-the-art venue offering a variety of national, regional and local programming. The Black Box is home to the Ft. Pierce Jazz and Blues Society's Jazz Jams every Tuesday night. For more information, call the box office at 772-461-4775.

Divorce Party, the Musical

WEST PALM BEACH—The Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Boulevard in West Palm Beach will present "Divorce Party, the Musical" July 10-Aug. 19. Still reeling from her divorce, Linda is rescued by her three friends who have come to turn her despair into a weekend of hilarity. Using popular songs with clever new lyrics, the ladies sing and dance their way through the wildest divorce party ever. From the producer who brought you the off-Broadway hit Menopause the Musical, it's the ultimate Girls' Night Out, coupled with a healthy dose of comic mayhem and a touch of "naughty." For more information, call the box office at 561-832-7469 or 800-572-8471.

Showtune

BOCA RATON—Florida Atlantic University's University Theatre will present "Showtune," June 22-July 21. Showtune is a popular Off-Broadway musical revue celebrating the words and music of Broadway composer Jerry Herman. Songs featured in Showtune come from the Herman Broadway musicals: Milk and Honey (1961), Hello, Dolly! (1964), Mame (1966), Dear World (1969), Mack & Mabel (1974), The Grand Tour (1979), A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine (1980) and La Cage Aux Folles (1983). For more information, call 1-800-564-9539.

Splash into summer fun at Seminole Casino Brighton

July 28 giveaway of a 2012 Nitro Bass Boat

BRIGHTON SEMINOLE RESERVATION—Seminole Casino Brighton is splashing into summer fun by giving away more than \$100,000 in cash and prizes! One lucky player will take bass fishing to a whole new level with a 2012 Nitro Bass Boat. More casino play during July means more chances to win the sleek and sporty beauty. The casino will award the boat on Saturday, July 28.

Every Thursday, you can win your share of \$20,000 free play during the Lucky Puck Hot Seats. Just play your favorite slots with your Player's Club card inserted and you could be a Lucky Puck Hot Seat winner!

On Friday, July 13 through Sunday, July 15, guests will also enjoy a special Italian menu at Josiah. The Italiano weekend features the finest delicacies, freshly made to order. Choose from Italian Chicken Parmesan, Lobster Penne Alfredo, Zuppa Toscani, Quattro Baked Ziti, Seafood Fra Diabolo, Chicken Piccata and more. Josiah's Seminole Pasta Shoppe menu features a build your own combination meal. Pick your pasta, gravy and meat or seafood.

Tuesdays, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, visitors 55 and older will get a free bag lunch, while supplies last.

On Wednesdays, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., visitors 55 and older will get a free breakfast, while supplies last. The free bag lunch and breakfast offers are open

to new or returning Player's Club members. Not a member? It's free to join, so sign up today.

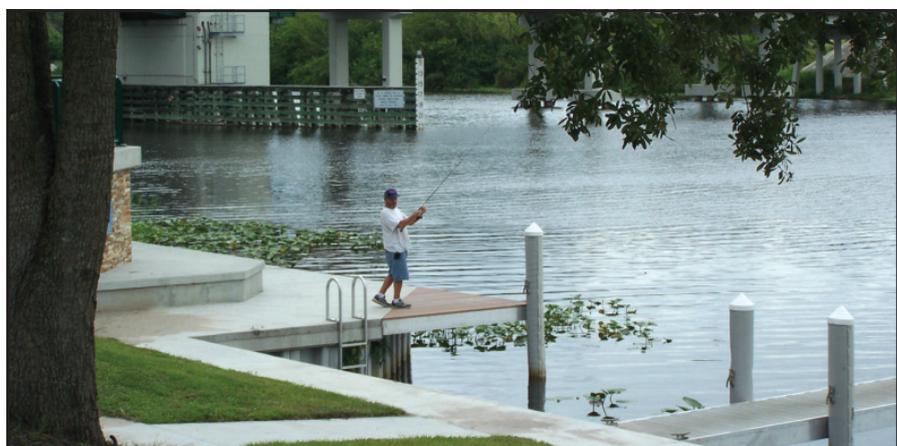
As always, there is free bus transportation from the Hampton Inn in Okeechobee at 1200 State Road 70. On Tuesdays and Fridays, the bus picks up at 10:30 a.m. It departs the casino at 5:30 p.m. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, the bus picks up at 2:15 p.m. and departs at 7:30 p.m.

See the Player's Club for promotion details.

About Seminole Casino Brighton

Seminole Casino Brighton is a 27,000-square-foot casino with 405-slot and gaming machines, a seven-table poker room, high-stakes bingo seats, a full-service restaurant and lounge. Its warm and friendly staff, ultra-modern air-conditioning system, clean atmosphere and rewarding casino promotions are a welcome alternative to big city gaming. The casino also recently opened a new area with 30 slots for those who prefer to play slot machines in a smoke-free environment.

The Seminole Casino Brighton is located on the Brighton Seminole Reservation, 17735 Reservation Road, in Glades County. From State Road 78, take SR 721 north, or from State Road 70, take SR 721 south. For more information, call toll-free 800-360-9875 or 863-467-9998. Or visit www.seminolebrightoncasino.com.



Fishing from the LaBelle Wharf

Summertime is a great time to catch up on your fishing and the Caloosahatchee River is a great place to wet your line. The City of LaBelle's new wharf is the perfect spot for fishermen. It's cool and it's close. Even if the fish aren't biting you can still have a great time from dawn till dusk. The wharf is located on the river at Barron Park, at the foot of the LaBelle Bridge.



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See Player's Club for complete details. Membership is free to all 21 or over. Approved ID will be required for redemption. All offers are subject to availability. Non-negotiable, non-transferable, cannot be combined with any other offer and must be redeemed in person at Seminole Casino Brighton. No cash value. Alteration or unauthorized use voids this offer. No reproductions are allowed. Management reserves the right to change or cancel this offer without notice based on operational and/or business concern. Seminole Casino Brighton employees are not eligible. Persons who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible. Other restrictions may apply. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.

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Swimming at state parks

• **Avalon State Park**, State Road A1A North, Fort Pierce, has more than a mile of increasingly rare undeveloped beachfront. The park provides habitat for many species of wildlife. Threatened and endangered sea turtles such as the loggerhead, Atlantic green and leatherback nest on the beach during the spring and summer. Dune crossovers protect the fragile dune ecosystem. The park is ideal for swimmers, snorkelers, fishermen and sunbathers for beach recreation. Swimmers and snorkelers are advised to be cautious of underwater obstacles left behind by amphibious warfare exercises during World War II. Visitors can enjoy a meal at sheltered picnic tables overlooking the beach. Admission fee is \$2 per vehicle (for up to 8 people). For information, call 772-468-3985.

• **Fort Pierce Inlet State Park**, 905 Shorewinds Drive in Fort Pierce, features a breathtakingly beautiful half-mile beach perfect for swimming, snorkeling, surfing, and scuba diving. Beachcombing, picnicking, or just relaxing on the sand are also popular activities. Dynamite Point was once the training site for WWII Navy Frogmen, but is now a haven for birdwatchers. Along the south end of the park, Fort Pierce Inlet is a popular place for anglers to catch their dinners. Jack Island Preserve, located one mile north of the park, has trails for hiking, bicycling, and nature study. At the west end of the Marsh Rabbit Run Trail, visitors can climb an observation tower to get a bird's-eye view of Indian River and the island. A primitive youth/group campground is available on a reservation basis; please call the park. Admission fee is \$6 per vehicle (for up to 8 people). For more information, call 772-468-3985.

• **John D. MacArthur State Beach Park**, 10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive in North Palm Beach, offers a unique mixture of coastal



Courtesy photo

Avalon State Park is off State Road A1A North in Fort Pierce.

and tropical hammock and mangrove forest. This barrier island provides a haven for several rare or endangered native tropical and coastal plant species. The park's Nature Center shows visitors why the park is a biological treasure. Visitors can swim, picnic, and surf at the beach; scuba diving and snorkeling are also popular activities. Birdwatchers can see herons, brown pelicans, terns, sandpipers, and gulls. Anglers can fish in the lagoon by wading, kayaking, or canoeing. They can also fish from non-swimming areas of the beach. Admission is \$5 per vehicle (for up to 8 people). For more information, call 561-624-6950.

• **St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park**, 4810 S.E. Cove Road in Stuart, is accessible only by boat, but it is worth the ride. A boardwalk takes visitors across

mangrove forests and hammocks of live oaks, cabbage palms, paradise trees, and wild limes to a neatly preserved Atlantic beach. During the summer months, the island is an important nesting area for loggerhead, leatherback, and green turtles. They come ashore at night to dig holes in the beach sand where they lay their eggs. The preserve is a favorite for nature students interested in learning about the native flora and fauna of Florida barrier islands. Visitors come to swim, sunbathe, or picnic at the pavilion on the quiet beach. Others make the trip for the great surf fishing. Snorkeling and scuba diving are also popular activities. Admission is \$3 per boat. For more information, call 772-219-1880.

See BEACHES— Page 7



Courtesy photo

Some visitors to John D. MacArthur State Beach Park enjoy kayaking in the Lake Worth Inlet.



Courtesy photo

Fort Pierce Inlet State Park is off Shorewinds Drive in Fort Pierce.



Courtesy photo

John D. MacArthur State Beach Park is off Jack Nicklaus Drive in North Palm Beach.

BEACHES

Continued From Page 6

• **Lovers Key State Park**, 8700 Estero Boulevard in Fort Myers Beach, is one of four barrier islands that make up this state park. A haven for wildlife, the islands and their waters are home to West Indian manatees, bottlenose dolphins, roseate spoonbills, marsh rabbits, and bald eagles. The two-mile long beach is accessible by boardwalk or tram and is popular for shelling, swimming, picnicking, and sunbathing. Black Island has over five miles of multiuse trails for hiking and bicycling. Anglers and boaters can launch their vessels from the park's boat ramp. The park's concession offers kayak tours, as well as bicycle, canoe and kayak rentals. For tour reservations and rentals of bicycles, canoes and kayaks, call 239-765-7788. Admission is \$8 per

vehicle (for up to 8 persons). For more information, call 239-463-4588.

• **Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park**, 11135 Gulfshore Dr. in Naples, features a mile-long stretch of white sugar sand. The 166-acre park is a tropical paradise for beach lovers, boaters and divers. The beach is a popular spot to sunbathe, swim, beachcomb, snorkel and picnic. At the beach along Wiggins Pass, where swimming is not allowed, fishing is a popular activity. Boaters can launch their vessels into Water Turkey Bay and travel to the Gulf or up the Cocohatchee River for both saltwater and freshwater fishing. Kayakers can enjoy paddling through estuaries and scuba divers can explore the hard bottom reef in the Gulf. At the north end of the island, a tower gives visitors a bird's-eye view of Wiggins Pass and the surrounding coastal habitat. Admission fee is \$6 per vehicle (for up to 8 people). For information, call 239-597-6196.



Courtesy photo

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park is near Naples.

Other public beaches, Atlantic Coast

• **Alex's Beach**, one mile south of Jensen Beach on Highway A1A, in Jensen Beach is open for swimming, shelling, and dune walkovers. The beach is pet friendly and ample parking make this beach a favorite.

• **Bathtub Reef Beach**, 1585 SE MacArthur Blvd, Stuart, on the south end of Hutchinson Island, is one of the most popular sunning and swimming beaches. Scuba diving is also available offshore in the shallow waters around the reef.

• **Chastain Beach**, 1213 SE McArthur Blvd, Stuart, is between House of Refuge and Bathtub Reef along Highway A1A. The beach is not guarded year round, so check to make sure a lifeguard is on duty. (The historic House of Refuge was originally built and manned to help shipwreck survivors.)

• **Frederick Douglass Park**, 3500 S A1A, Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, is on South Hutchinson Island. The beach covers 13.7 acres. Lifeguards are on duty during summer months only.

• **Glasscock Beach**, 4775 NE Ocean Blvd, Stuart, Martin County, is off Highway A1A north of Jensen Beach Causeway. This beach is perfect for surfing and shelling.

• **House of Refuge Beach**, one mile south of Stuart Beach on Highway A1A in Hobe Sound is a good spot for snorkeling.

• **Jensen Beach**, 4191 NE Ocean Blvd, Jensen Beach, at intersection of Highway A1A and State Route 732, is a popular spot for visitors. The park area has volleyball courts as well as bathrooms and

showers.

• **Kimberly Bergalis Beach**, off South A1A on South Hutchinson Island, has lifeguards on duty during summer months only. There are covered picnic areas, restrooms and showers.

• **Pepper Park Beach Park**, 3375 N A1A, Fort Pierce, on North Hutchinson Island includes 52.4 acres and is guarded year round. The beach has a large pavilion, picnic tables with grills, restrooms, showers, playground, volleyball, basketball, tennis courts, ample parking. This beach is next to the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum.

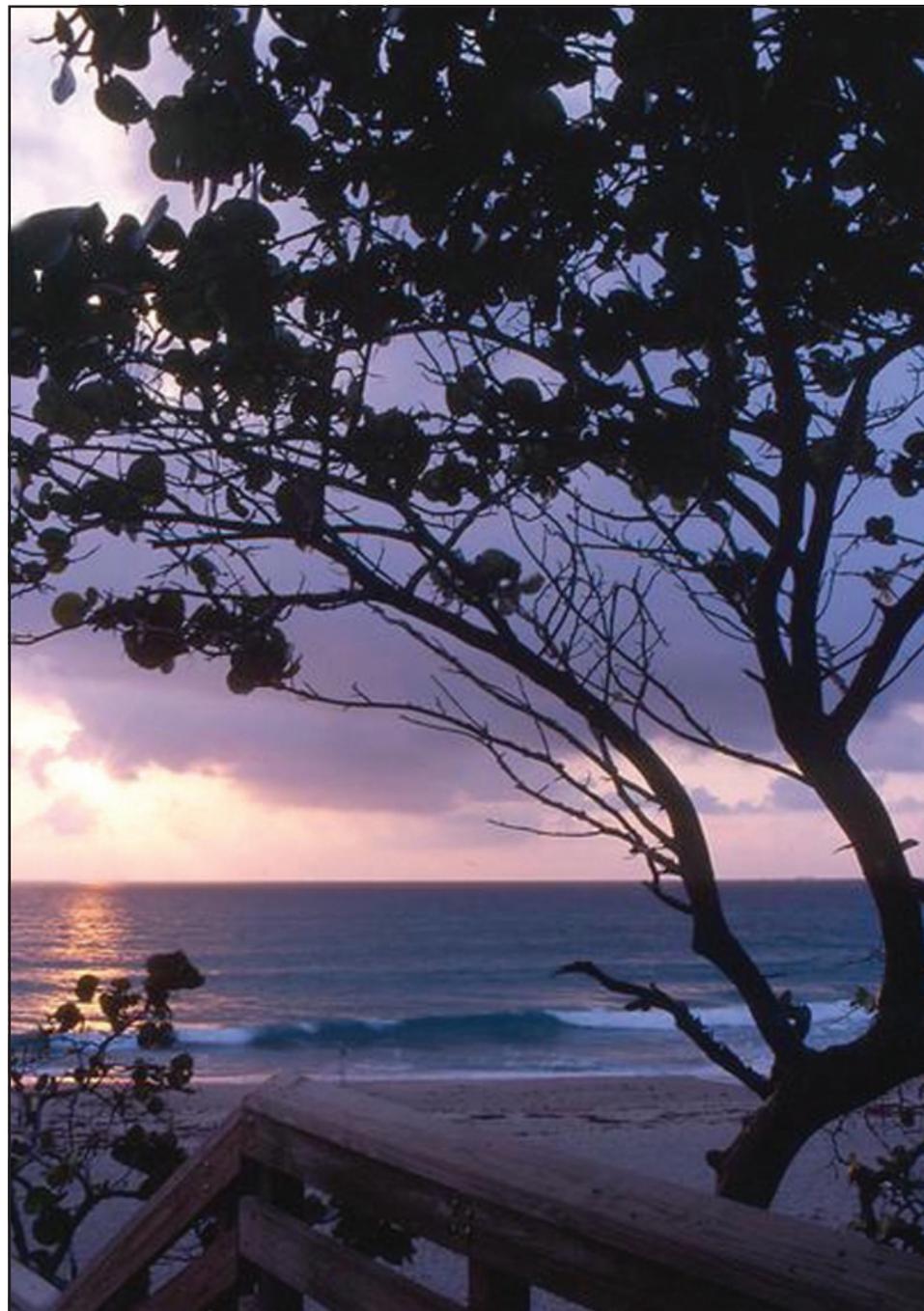
• **Stokes Beach** off Highway A1A in Jensen Beach offers opportunities for swimming, surfing and snorkeling.

• **Waveland Beach**, 10350 S A1A, on South Hutchinson Island, includes 3.6 acres The beach is guarded year round and has bathrooms & showers.

Gulf Coast beaches

• **Fort Myers Beach**, off Estero Boulevard in the City of Fort Myers Beach, is on San Carlos Bay, which is wide open to the Gulf of Mexico, although not actually on the gulf. It is billed as the safest beach on the Gulf Coast because of its calm and shallow waters. There are more than 30 beach access points. The beaches are open from sunrise to half an hour past sunset.

• **Sanibel Island** is a barrier island just offshore from Fort Myers, accessible by the Sanibel Causeway. The island has sandy beaches that are well known for shelling. The beaches have public restrooms. Beach parking is \$2 per hour. Captiva Island, also know for its beaches, is accessible over a bridge which crosses at Turner Beach.



Courtesy photo

Sunrise at John D. MacArthur State Beach Park.



Courtesy photo

The boardwalk over the Lake Worth Lagoon offers a scenic view.

Memories are made on vacations: Tips for the road

Don't worry about record-breaking gas prices – the U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates prices to be \$3.79 a gallon this summer, less than in 2008.

That's good news for families considering reviving the tradition of a road trip vacation, one of the best experiences parents and kids can share, says Michael DiLorenzo, author of "Adventures with Jonny: Road Trip to the Parks!"

"This is a shared experience, and one that will be talked about during family gatherings for years to come," says DiLorenzo, a father of three. "For busy parents, this is a time to savor their children's youth. As moms and dads eventually find out, they grow up fast."

It's also a chance to get children outside and away from their computers, he says. Children today already have a deep-rooted interest in technology, which is

why a road trip to a natural, outdoor destination is an opportunity to "give your child the gift of the outdoors, which is a gift for life," says DiLorenzo.

The journey to a national park in the United States or Canada – perhaps Yellowstone in Wyoming or Banff in Alberta – is as bonding an experience as whatever happens at the destination.

"And there are parks in every state," he notes. "If you don't have the time or money to go cross country, pick a park closer to home."

DiLorenzo offers these helpful tips for the road:

- **Games, games, games!:** Yes, there is ample entertainment for both drivers and riders in cars these days. BUT, the goal is to bond with the family, so consider a fun, albeit off-color game like "Road Kill Round-Up." A point system might break down like this: two points

for the first to spot a poor critter; three for whoever first correctly identifies the species; two points subtracted for a false road-kill call; three points subtracted for misidentifying the kind.

- **Beware of dairy drinks (and other smelly snacks):** A spill in the backseat can eventually create quite a stink during a summer road trip. But do pack plenty of healthy snacks to save on pricey pit stops and avoid all the sugar and salt in junk food.

- **Avoid big-city rush hours:** When traveling through metropolitan areas, consider the busiest traffic periods. Whether you plan to stop and check out the city or simply zip through it, bumper-to-bumper traffic is something to avoid. A bit of consideration can save your family hours of grid-locked misery.

- **Tech help:** Various apps and websites can help drivers find the cheapest

gas prices, food options, hotel rates and travel routes. Also, don't forget a music mix that appeals to the entire family on one of these devices. (Remember, leave work at home – forget about work-related calls, texts and emails! Use a non-work-related smartphone, if needed.)

- **Schedule pit stops:** Being in a hurry should be left for the morning commute; vacation should be different. When traveling across states and provinces, consider local culture. For example, barbecue in South Carolina is very different from Missouri's version. Enjoy diners and unique attractions, and don't be afraid to take notes.

"The greatest family memories are created in shared adventure," DiLorenzo says. "Outdoor recreation is filled with these memories just looking for a family to bring them home."

Looking for a summer family activity? Go on a beach safari!

By Jessica Basham Therriault
FWC

Not everyone has a green backyard with bushes and trees. Florida is a peninsula, with the longest coastline of all states in the continental United States. Most of Florida's nearly 19 million residents live less than 60 miles from the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico, making the beach, sand and salt water their "backyards."

So let's go on a summer backyard beach safari!

Begin your treasure hunt by shelling. Take a walk along the water's edge, and you'll discover hundreds of varieties of shells hurled onto the beach by waves that roll or crash onto the shore.

Seashells were once living organisms. The shell is the hard, protective outer part of an animal, usually a mollusk. Mollusks are animals like scallops, snails, clams and oysters. These creatures make their own shell. When the animal dies or gets eaten by another creature, the empty shell stays empty or becomes a home to other sea critters like

hermit crabs.

Shelling provides hours of fun while looking for that one-of-a-kind, colorful treasure. Before you keep a shell, make sure there is nothing living in it. Otherwise you need a special license to keep it.

Another activity is digging in the sand for coquinas ("Ko-KEE-nahs") and mole crabs. It's easy to spend hours getting lost in the color and movement of coquinas and the squirms of mole crabs. Coquinas are tiny clams that live just below the surface of the sand where the waves roll in. Tides carry and deposit them along the shoreline, where they feed on microscopic organisms in the sand. They are a dazzling sight with wonderful colors, like tiny jewels. Sometimes you don't need to dig because incoming waves will unearth them. Watch as they furiously dig, seeking cover and food as each wave rolls back out to sea.

Mole crabs are small and do not look like a typical crab, nor do they look like a mole. They are fast and will bury themselves quickly in an effort to hide. To find one, dig

gently in sand near the water, just as if you are looking for coquinas. As you dig, they may bury deeper into the sand but if you can get underneath one, then you can scoop it up. They may tickle you but don't worry; they do not bite. Be gentle, because they are soft and fragile. When you are finished observing the crab gently place it back into the soft, wet sand.

Bird-watching is another fun activity. Gulls live on the beach and are known to swoop in to steal your food! Pesky as they might be, they are still fun to watch. Other birds to watch at the beach are pelicans. Pelicans glide just above the water's surface, and then SPLOOSH! They dive into the water head-first to grab a fishy meal.

It's also fun to look for bird tracks in the wet sand.

Can you identify the tracks you find? Do not chase the birds to make them fly. Simply watch and admire their behavior.

While on your safari, be sure to wear sunscreen so you can avoid sunburn, and have fun this summer!



Courtesy photo/R.J. Wiley
A pelican guides in to land at Lovers Key State Park.



Courtesy photo/R.J. Wiley
Parents and caregivers should always be alert when children are in or near water.

Stay safe when swimming

Swimming, one of the most popular activities in the country, is a fun, active, and healthy way to spend leisure time. Every year, millions of people visit recreational water sites, such as swimming pools, water parks, hot tubs, lakes, rivers, or the ocean.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) encourages all parents and child care givers to be more careful in their everyday responsibilities including swimming. DOH supports the work of Safe Kids Florida, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide and supports the following

tips:

- **NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN ALONE NEAR WATER.**

- Tell children never to run, push, or jump on others near water.

- Learn infant and child CPR.

- Children should always wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets.

- Inflatable inner tubes and "water wings" are not safety devices.

- Teach children to swim after age 4.

- Make sure children swim within designated swimming areas of rivers, lakes and oceans.

GO

Going Out: A Guide to Area Entertainment & Attractions

Beat the summer heat at area water attractions

Cool off at state parks and public beaches

Splash into summer fun with cash prizes at Brighton Casino

Plans under way for annual Day of the Cowboy



Pools and water parks help area residents beat the heat

The best way to beat the heat under the Florida sun? Dive into one of the area's many swimming pools and water attractions. South Florida offers a wide variety of swimming choices, from county public swimming pools to the fast paced water slides featured in water parks.

- The Okeechobee Sports Complex Pool, 640 Northwest 27th Lane in Okeechobee, (shown in the cover photo) is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. through Aug. 19. The L-shaped pool has a shallow area for the little ones as well as lanes for more serious swimmers. There are two waterslides which are supervised by lifeguards. On Thursday nights, the pool is open for Family Swim Night from 6 to 8 p.m. From Aug. 25-Sept. 2, the pool will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. The pool offers senior water exercise classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Regular admission is \$3 per person. Discount rates are available for groups. Family swim night admission is \$2. Senior water exercise fee is \$2 per day. The pool is also available for rent for private parties. For more information, call 863-467-7667.

- Clewiston's public swimming pool at 113 W. Osceola Avenue in Clewiston, has both a water slide and a diving board. The pool is open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person.

State Road 715, in Belle Glade, is the perfect place to cool off on those scorching, hot days. The center features a public swimming pool with three waterslides and tipping buckets in the shallow end. The pool is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission fee is \$1. Swimming lessons are also available. Pioneer Park also has a Splash Park; this area has no admission fee and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- The Immokalee Sports Complex is a large fitness and activity center located at 505 Escambia St. in Immokalee. The Immokalee Sports Complex has many amenities including an aquatic facility with a 25-yard by 25-meter pool (heated), 1 one-meter springboard, slide and children's activity pool (heated). Summer pool hours (through September) are Monday-Friday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Winter pool hours are Monday-Friday from 3 to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. If the temperature is 59 degrees or below, the park may close water facilities. For more information, call 239-657-1951.

- Lion Country Safari, 2003 Lion Country Safari Road, Loxahatchee, a drive-through safari and walk-through amusement park, has a 4,000 square-foot water

See WATER — Page 3



Courtesy photo

Pioneer Park Aquatic Center in Belle Glade features a public swimming pool with three waterslides.



Courtesy photo

A young participant in a Clewiston summer camp program prepares to dive into the Clewiston City Swimming Pool.

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WATER

Continued From Page 1

spray ground with 23 interactive water features located in the walk-through, "Safari World." Tickets are \$27.50 for adults; \$24.50 for seniors; \$20.50 for children. Discounts are available if tickets are purchased online.

- Sun-N-Fun Lagoon, 15000 Livingston Road in Naples, is Collier County's only water park. Sun-N-Fun Lagoon includes four pools, a long lazy river, a lit splash playground or interactive water feature, five exciting water slides, a concession stand other typical amenities such as restrooms and lockers. The park is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day during the summer and weekends, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the school year. Operating hours are subject to change during inclement weather. Children under age 3 are admitted free. Those less than 48 inches tall pay \$5.50. Those 48 inches tall or taller pay \$12. There is a \$2 discount for Collier County residents (with driver's license.) Those over the age of 60 qualify for a senior discount and pay \$8 per person. Groups of 20 or more persons may qualify for a group rate. For more information call 239-252-4021.

- Devils Garden Mud Club, 23525 County Road 835, just south of U.S. 27 near Clewiston, has swimming holes in addition to mud holes, airboat track, mud flats, circle track, mud sand track, truck pull and miles of trails. For more information online go to <http://www.devilsgardenmudclub.com/>.

- Sunsplash Family Waterpark, 400 Santa Barbara Blvd. in Cape Coral is a 12-acre waterpark with more than two



Courtesy photo

Children cool off under the 'rainfall' at Sunsplash Family Waterpark.

dozen wet and dry attractions, including a tube ride, waterslides, and a tot spot. Cost is \$15.95 for children and seniors; \$17.95 for adults. Season passes are also available. Hours of operation through Aug. 7 are Monday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aqua Theater night is July 27 from 6 to 10 p.m. Family fun night is July 14 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 8-Sept. 30 the park will only be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Labor Day, the park will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Family Fun Nights are planned for Aug. 11 and Sept. 8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. For more information online, go to www.sunsplashwaterpark.com.

- Rapids Water Park, 6566 North Military Trail in West Palm Beach, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Sept. 30. Entry fee is \$36.95 plus tax Monday-Friday; \$40.95 plus tax on Saturdays and Sundays. Parking is \$10 per vehicle. For more information online, go to www.rapidswaterpark.com. Rapids Water Park offers 29 water slides. The park includes a

25,000 square-foot wave pool, lazy river, body and tube slides, activity pools and a children's water play area. The park also has some unique water rides. Big Thunder is a four-person Tornado tube ride. Black Thunder is another four-person Tornado tube ride in total darkness. In addition there are two raft rides.

- Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park features attractions for the whole family—from fast waterslides to a children's area with pint-sized raft rides. Catch 6-foot waves in the Surf Pool and snorkel Shark Reef—with real sharks! In addition to great waterslides, visitors enjoy the lazy river, wave pool and children's play area. Disney's Typhoon Lagoon features attractions for the entire family—including thrill rides, chill rides, family-style raft rides, areas for little squirts and plenty of tropical lounging for grownups. For more information online go to <http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/parks/typhoon-lagoon/>. Single day water park tickets are \$55.38 for adults, \$46.68 for children. Some discounts are available online or when combined with other attractions.

- Disney's Blizzard Beach, 1534 West Buena Vista Drive in Lake Buena Vista, features one of the world's tallest and fastest free-falling waterslides, as well as slides and rides for the whole family—like a kid-sized, snow-castle fountain play area with scaled-down versions of the more thrilling attractions. While the park looks like a frosty ski resort—complete with a functioning chair lift, it's actually an action-packed water wonderland with exciting waterslides and attractions for the whole family. Race on Toboggan Racers, float down Cross Country Creek, plunge down raft rides like Runoff Rapids, discover the Tike's Peak children's play area, play in a one-acre wave pool and experience the thrill of one of the tallest and fastest waterslides in the country, Summit Plummet. Single day water park tickets are \$55.38 for adults, \$46.68 for children. Some discounts are available online or when combined with other attractions. Disney also offers annual water park passes for Florida residents.

- Wet 'N Wild, 6200 International Drive, in Orlando, includes a variety of multi-person tube and raft rides, single-person tube rides, water ski rides, a lazy river tube attraction and the newest BlastAway Beach family play area with a sandcastle that towers 60-feet over 15 slides, two splash pools and more than a 160 soakers, water jets, cannons and waterfalls. For more information, call 407-351-1800. Tickets are \$34 per day for Florida residents (a savings of \$15.99 over regular admission price.) Annual passes and other special tickets are also available.

- Aquatica, 5800 Water Play Way in Orlando, is just across the street from Sea World. The park includes side-by-

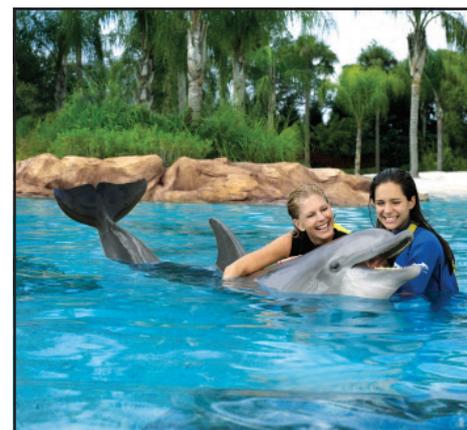


Courtesy photo

Sunny's River at Sun and Fun Lagoon in Naples is great on a hot, lazy day.

side wave pools, tube rides, a children's play area, a lazy river tube ride, high-speed mat rides and multi-person raft rides. Aquatica visitors will see dolphins, exotic fish, tortoises, exotic birds and other exotic animals. Some of the rides take the visitors through the animal habitat. On the Dolphin Plunge Ride, two side-by-side enclosed tube slides send visitors racing through an underwater world that is home to a playful pod of beautiful black-and-white Commerson's Dolphins. Daily admission is \$49.99 for adults and \$44.99 for children when purchased at the gate. Discounts for Florida residents are available if you purchase tickets online in advance. Annual and weekday passes are also available.

- Discovery Cove in Orlando, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., is an all-inclusive adventure in which guests enjoy a one-of-a-kind opportunity to swim with dolphins, rays, and tropical fish and hand-feed exotic birds. At Discovery Cove, guests experience the most exciting animal encounters the world has to offer in a 30-acre tropical oasis. Discovery Cove is a paradise of rocky lagoons surrounded by lush landscaping, tropical reefs, winding rivers, a resort-style pool complete with waterfalls, and pristine white-sand beaches. Seasonal rates start at \$199 for adults, \$129 for children. Reservations are required. For more information, call at 1-877-434-7268.



Courtesy photo

Visitors meet the dolphins at Discovery Cove in Orlando.



Courtesy photo

Swimmers slide into the water at the Okeechobee Sports Complex.,